



Energy park could be built near landmark

MORE than 2,500 solar panels and a wind turbine could be built near Oswestry's Old Racecourse.

Developers have lodged a planning application for a major renewable energy park on land near the landmark.

Plans for the proposed Cefn y Maes Community Renewable Energy Park, which is expected to generate about 2.5 million kwh of electricity

per year, are situated near the local beauty spot at Rhydycroesau.

The developers behind the scheme, renewables firm Engena Limited, have submitted plans for one wind turbine, 2,588 solar panels assembled in rows of four panels deep, two containers for energy storage equipment, a substation and ancillary infrastructure, to Shropshire Council.

The energy park, covering 1.70 hectares of farmland, would provide electricity for more than 550 homes.

Councillor Robert Milton, chairman of Oswestry Rural Parish Council, said residents have already voiced their concerns about a number of issues including the impact it will have on the landscape as it is sited on the top of unspoilt hillside, and access for

the large vehicles that will travel up the hill to the site.

Engena Limited says the proposed operational lifetime of the project is 30 years, following which the wind turbine, solar array and energy storage facility would be decommissioned unless further planning permission was granted.

The planned single wind turbine on

the site will have a maximum height to tip of 101 metres, while each solar panel will measure 1.65 metre long by 0.992m wide.

Engena has also requested permission for the installation of a temporary access track and an upgrading of the existing farm entrance, for the purpose of delivery and construction of the proposed energy park.

CRIME

Council employees may soon get use of body cameras

PLANS to arm council staff with police-style body cameras to tackle problems with anti-social behaviour and fly-tipping in Welshpool have moved a step closer.

Welshpool Town Council could purchase five body cams for use around the town by council staff and the town clerk in an effort to help them catch those who are committing offences.

The council's services committee has agreed to propose the move to full council later this month, recommending that £240 is spent on the devices as part of a 12-month trial period.

The suggestion for use of the cameras came about following a meeting with the council and senior police officers.

Robert Robinson, town clerk, said the cameras would be similar to police body cams.

He said: "These cameras will help to keep our staff safe."

"I think they will be an extremely useful tool and all it takes is staff clicking a button if they catch someone deliberately dropping litter or causing problems and within seconds we have that evidence without the perpetrators even knowing."

Last year Welshpool Town Council opened up a hotline for residents to report any instances of anti-social behaviour in the town. The drive was set up to encourage people to report incidents of crime and vandalism in the community.

● Tipping - See Page 6

NEW HOPES FOR STREET REVAMP

Report by Sue Austin

FRESH talks this week offer the "best opportunity" in years for one of Oswestry's key shopping areas to finally be revitalised, top councillors have said.

Part of Cross Street has been plagued by empty and unkempt retail units over several years.

Three successive town mayors have tried to force the buildings' owners to improve their premises but have enjoyed little success. But they all say talks this week could at last bring the improvements. Shropshire Council and Oswestry Town Council held initial discussions about the problem on Monday and yesterday (Wednesday) a meeting of the Oswestry Joint Economic Board was due to be held to look at how the area could be regenerated.

Current Town Mayor Paul Milner said the fresh talks were long overdue.

He said: "My predecessors and I have spent some considerable time and met with much frustration to get things moving and see empty shops filled. This is the best opportunity we have to get some action."

His predecessor Councillor Peter Cherrington said: "The meetings this week are providing a fresh impetus to move forward and see Cross Street once again become a busy street."

And Councillor Cherrington's predecessor as mayor, Councillor John Gareth Jones, said: "The town council has persuaded the leader of Shropshire Council to bring together the two councils to look at the Cross Street problem - this is the way forward."

Worries about Cross Street featured heavily at last week's Oswestry Chronicle Business Club. Councillor Milner and Oswestry's Deputy Mayor Vince Hunt took part in a question and answer session with the Chronicle's associate editor Iain St John during the business club. During the meeting a number of business owners said the state of Cross Street and parking issues were the main problems the town faced.

● Parking - See Page 23

Hub move safeguards future of village library



Gobowen Primary School pupils join representatives from organisations serving the village to celebrate the library's new community hub status

A VILLAGE library has been turned into a community hub, ensuring its future in coming years.

Gobowen Library has been threatened with closure more than once in the past. Now villagers and organisations have joined forces to create a community hub in the building with a range of services having a base there.

Funding for the project has come not only from Shropshire Council and Selattyn and Gobowen Parish Council but also from Shropshire Town and Rural Housing and the Three

Parishes Big Lottery project. Councillor Rob Macey said that while money had come from the four bodies, it was the volunteer help from the Friends of Gobowen Library and the interest from a wide range of groups that had helped the dream become a reality.

"Local people have come up with ideas that the funders have been able to make possible," he said. "Inside the library we now have moveable shelving that means the building can be used for meetings and other events and we have also furnished a separate small

meeting area." Although Shropshire Council has cut opening hours at libraries across the county, Gobowen has been able to remain open on Wednesdays thanks to the Derwen College. Its students are involved in running the building on Wednesdays as part of the college's extensive, work experience programme.

Volunteers also host other events. Angie Hankey and Barbara Leonard, both from the Friends of Gobowen Library group, help to run the Time to Listen group while other volunteers help with Rhyme Time sessions.

TOURISM

Plans for balloon festival hotting up

GLOBAL adventurer Per Lindstrand is offering his expertise to the 2017 Oswestry Balloon Festival.

The British Ironwork Centre, which is hosting the festival in partnership with the Lindstrand company, says the two-day event over the August Bank Holiday will celebrate the ballooning history of the town. Clive Knowles, from the ironwork centre, said: "It is only right that the balloon festival takes place here. There is a huge amount of ballooning history in the town thanks to Per Lindstrand."

A sponsors' evening was held at the site last night (Wednesday).

INSIDE

Saints are the champs again



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Innovation park ambition set to take step forward

Report by Naomi Penrose

PLANS to bring 3,000 new jobs to the Oswestry area have moved a step closer.

An application will be lodged within the next week for Oswestry Innovation Park, covering 60 acres at Mile End Roundabout.

Burying the nearby overhead 400kv pylons and the 123kv line, which will come through the site, as well as leaving a six metre buffer strip to allow room for if the A5 between Ruabon and Shrewsbury is dualled, are some of the plans that will be included within the application.

Shropshire Council is submitting the plans as part of its drive to create jobs in the county.

Deputy Leader Steve Charmley said: "This is an extremely positive step. I've always considered this site to be one of the county's prime sites for employment and growth, and now it'll be taking a real step forward once the planning application goes in."

"This site is crucial for future employment opportunities in the region, as well as the potential skills it will bring to the area."

The site, across the A483, is currently agricultural land.

Councillor Charmley said the creation of jobs at the site would also prove extremely beneficial for Oswestry and the wider area, with an application currently pending for 600 homes on land between the bypass and Shrewsbury Road in the town.

Other plans due to be outlined in the application include the size of the buildings on the business park and whereabouts they will be located on the site.

Shropshire Council's newly-appointed group manager for business growth and prosperity, Gemma Davies, compiled an economic growth strategy for the county, which was last week approved by the authority's cabinet, in which the Oswestry business park was included as a "key growth site".

"The council is taking a proactive role in that site because we recognise that a business isn't going to come in and invest that sort of money into a site - they want to be ready to come and put their own infrastructure in place for the buildings and fit-out," Ms Davies said.

"It needs investment in that infrastructure to bring that site to market so it's ready for development."

Chance to create your own owl sculpture



Anthony Smith, manager of the Willow Gallery in Oswestry, with an art piece. Photo: Jamie Ricketts.

A GALLERY is hosting a workshop where people can craft their own mystical owl sculptures.

The workshop, with Liz Ellis, will take place at the Willow Gallery in Oswestry.

It will take place on April 8, from 10.30am to 4.30pm.

Liz said: "For me the owl's presence is a sign of nature in balance and a return to

natural order. She is also the moonlit bird of my dreams.

"Join me for this one-day workshop to create your own owl in porcelain paper clay. These will then be taken and fired and returned to the gallery for collection."

"Revered and feared, owls have appeared in many guises over the millennia: carried as an amulet in ancient times to ward of

'the evil eye' and in folklore as a guard against frenzy and unreason."

"But in Alan Garner's book *The Owl Service* and in the ancient Welsh stories in the *Mabinogion*, owls are simply cursed."

The cost of the workshop is £45 and all materials are provided.

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Homes bid for village is opposed

PLANS for 18 new homes in a village near Oswestry have been minded for refusal by councillors, who say the number is too high.

The proposals for the homes off School Road in Kinnerley were criticised by councillors at a meeting of Shropshire Council's north planning committee who said the number of houses was "over-development" for the area.

The site had been given outline planning application for 12 houses but developers Chartland Homes wanted to increase that by an uplift of 50 per cent – 18 homes. Kinnerley Parish Council initially supported the development of the site but objected to 18 homes.

Councillor Charles Green, chairman of the parish council, said the village had already committed to an increase in housing and although they would be happy for the development of the site, 18 homes was too much for the village. He said 18 homes would stretch village resources, as well as traffic, too far.

Committee members heard the site is allocated for residential development in the SAMDev policy – the council's housing blueprint – and the allocation has a development guideline of 12 homes.

Six councillors voted to mind the application for refusal, while three voted against.

Teenager in court over use of bike

YOUTHS caught riding motorbikes illegally on the roads have appeared before magistrates for their actions.

The teenagers were arrested by officers on patrol after separate incidents in Oswestry and Telford.

The Oswestry incident involved a 16-year-old who was spotted riding with a pillion passenger on a moped, in Beatrice Street, Oswestry, on October 7 at 6.30pm.

The youth, from Oswestry, admitted an offence of driving otherwise than in accordance with his licence and an offence of having no insurance.

For no insurance he was fined £30 and given six penalty points.

There was no separate penalty for the licence matter.

He was ordered to pay costs £20 and victim surcharge of £20.

The defendants cannot be identified for legal reasons.

Monday refuse rounds binned to save £500k

Report by Sue Austin

MONDAY recycling and refuse collections are to be binned in Mid Wales.

From April, Powys County Council will collect all recycling and waste between Tuesdays and Fridays and will no longer collect on Mondays as part of plans to save £500,000 a year.

Householders may have the date of their collection changed but the council will continue to collect recycling and food waste on a weekly basis and residual waste every three weeks. No council staff will lose their jobs, instead they will work longer hours, four day weeks. Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin unitary authorities said they had no plans to go down a similar route.

As part of the change, households will be notified of their new collections days but they will need to have their recycling and waste out ready for collection by 6.30am on their collection day.

Councillor John Powell, cabinet member for waste and recycling, said: "We are facing a significant budget shortfall and have to find savings of £29.8million over the next three financial years. As part of the budget response, our Highways, Transport and Recycling Service has been tasked with finding savings of approximately £2m a year for three years. By collecting recycling and waste on four days a week instead of five, we can avoid any disruption associated with bank holiday Mondays and plan our vehicle maintenance and training with less disruption. Where the bank holidays cannot be avoided, usually around Easter and Christmas, catch-up collection periods will be greatly reduced. In addition we have undertaken a route optimisation exercise for our collection rounds and made them more efficient by reducing vehicle movements as part of the planned changes. These changes will help us meet our budget saving targets. We will be informing households of their new collection days by post in the coming weeks. There is no reduction of hours, the staff will be working 37 hours a week over four days. And there are no council staff redundancies."

Paul Beard, Shropshire Council's waste contracts manager, said: "Although Shropshire Council/Veolia do not have any plans to move to a four-day collection week, our routes and rounds are regularly reviewed and changes made to ensure we have the most efficient collection schedule."

Residents fed up with rat run abuse



Parish councillor Sue Schofield, right, with residents in Kimberley Lane in St Martins

DRIVERS using a narrow lane as a rat run simply to save themselves a few hundred yards are putting people at risk, residents say.

People who live in Kimberley Lane in the village of St Martins, near Oswestry, blocked their road with their own vehicles recently in protest at the number of motorists who use it as a short cut.

Access only signs are at both ends of the lane, which connects the Ellesmere and Overton roads, but residents say they are ignored.

Most want to see the road blocked off at one end to stop it being used as a through route.

David Burkhill, 79, said he had been calling for changes for 30 years.

"The signs are huge but people just ignore them," he said.

"When we try to tell the drivers, we are subjected to abuse. I have been shouted at and even spat at."

Parish councillor, Sue Schofield, said there was going to be a nasty accident if nothing was done.

"The amount of traffic on the roads has grown over the last 30 years and so has the number of people using Kimberley Lane as a short cut."

"I don't think sat navs have helped," she said.

"When a survey was taken of the residents' wishes, nine of the 11 wanted to see it blocked off."

She said that the Safer Roads Partnership had agreed to discuss Kimberley Lane at a meeting in April.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Business initiative ready for launch

A BUSINESS-led initiative with the potential to transform Oswestry's local economy is set for an official launch next week.

The Oswestry Business Improvement District, or BID, aims to create a collaborative vision for the town and boost and sustain its economic growth, meaning more jobs for the area. If businesses vote to become an improvement district a small levy on business rates can then be used to lever in outside funding for projects.

The Oswestry BID launch takes place on Wednesday next week at 5.15pm for a 5.30pm start at Carriages at the Cambrian Works, Gobowen Road, Oswestry.

For more information about Oswestry BID and the launch, people are asked to email info@oswestry-4bid.co.uk

Comedy evening will take place

A COMEDY evening will take place at Llanfechain Memorial Hall on March 18 at 8pm.

From Here To Absurdity is a 90-minute sketch show that started life at the Edinburgh Fringe a few years ago.

The show focuses on the assorted idiocies of modern life in the spirit of Peter Cook and beyond the fringe.

Tickets at £7.50 are available from Llanfechain Community Shop or by calling (01691) 829081, 828802 or 828077.

All proceeds go to Llanfechain Memorial Hall.

The event is supported by the Arts Council of Wales Nightout Scheme and Powys County Council.

Society members set to meet up

THE Welshpool Society will present its last talk in the 2016-2017 season on Tuesday next week.

It will take place at 7.30pm in the Corn Exchange at Welshpool Town Hall.

The speaker is the well known local historian Edward Parry who has a special interest in architectural history.

He will speak on the timber framed houses of Montgomeryshire. Tea and coffee will be available. Admission to the lecture is £2.50.

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Roast Sirloin of Welsh Beef
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Pan Seared Fillet of Salmon
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Terry Foster with Aislinn

Health campaigners in town protest

CAMPAIGNERS will use the Mother's Day weekend to launch a demonstration to safeguard maternity units.

Hundreds of parents have already backed the Save Oswestry Maternity Unit campaign and online petition, calling on health bosses to rethink their plans to reduce opening hours at the midwife-led unit at the orthopaedic hospital.

Health bosses have suggested downgrading three Shropshire maternity units to birthing centres which would not be staffed overnight, leaving women in labour to call the units to arrange for them to open. Liz Grayston, a mother-of-four and organiser of the Save Oswestry Maternity Unit Facebook campaign, said: "The details of the protest haven't quite been finalised

but it will be held on Saturday, March 25 – the weekend of Mothering Sunday and it will involve protests in Oswestry, Ludlow and Bridgnorth. We will be encouraging people to bring their Oswestry baby, bumps or newborns and maybe even people born at the unit, who have grown into parents themselves, to the protest in Cae Glas Park, Oswestry, at 10.30am."

Meanwhile, in a separate campaign, supporters of the NHS were out on the streets of Oswestry on Saturday.

Recently retired paramedic, Terry Foster, was one of those who took part in the Save Our NHS protest in the town to coincide with the national event in London. He was accompanied by his granddaughter Aislinn.

Enterprise group calls for improvements to routes

Report by Sue Austin

MAJOR improvements are needed to two of Shropshire's main roads, including one which serves Oswestry, in a bid to improve business.

The Marches Local Enterprise Partnership is calling on the Government to fund improvement projects for the A49 and A5 west and north of Shrewsbury.

A breakfast meeting was held in Ludlow yesterday (Wednesday) by the partnership, asking drivers what investment they want to see in the roads network.

The meeting has been called as part of a bid to see more national funding for transport links in the region. Marches LEP says that to persuade the Government to invest in the area's infrastructure it needs to build up a solid case.

It has already carried out a detailed study that found two of the main trouble spots were the A49 west of Shrewsbury and the A5 north of the town towards Oswestry.

Jacqui Casely, LEP partnership manager, told roads minister John Hayes when he paid a visit to Shropshire last week that the Strategic Transport Corridors report flagged up the two roads as the most congested of routes connecting the Midlands and Wales.

"For local journeys the Shrewsbury to Oswestry axis is becoming more important as both towns expand.

"The A5 northbound Oswestry bypass features in the top 10 least reliable journey times, 63.6 per cent on-time reliability and the route is therefore totally inadequate," she said.

"There is significant potential to develop a closer economic relationship between the three towns of Shrewsbury, Oswestry and Wrexham if transport links can be improved."

The business breakfast meeting was called to allow company bosses to be asked what investment in the transport network might benefit them.

● Plea – See Page 26

Firm boosts autism charity



Hilary McGlynn receives the cheque from Mark Derham. Photo: John Sambrooks.

COFFEE drinkers have helped raise £250 for an autism charity thanks to their supplier.

Mark Derham, who owns Bridge Coffee in Whittington, near Oswestry, decided to donate a percentage of his takings from every case of Caffè Noir Rainforest Alliance espresso beans and filter coffee as well as a one-off donation for every new coffee machine the business sold over the last year. The business supplies coffee and machines to businesses and caterers.

Mr Derham said he was inspired to support Autism West Midlands through his

work as a governor at Woodside Primary School in Oswestry. He said: "My responsibility is special educational needs, from the most seriously disabled to anyone with any sort of special needs. Ten per cent of the population is on the autism spectrum and while lots of people support big charities, we wanted to support Autism West Midlands and the fantastic work that they do. My customers didn't really know what I was doing, but now we've raised £250 I'm starting to tell them about it." The cheque was presented to Hilary McGlynn, service manager at Autism West Midlands.

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Coroner 'sees no criticism' over man's death after falls

Report by Andrew Morris

A CORONER said he "sees no criticism" of a hospital over its care of a man who died only hours after he left without waiting for treatment.

Guy Evans, 25, of St Martins near Oswestry, died on October 9 after falling over a number of times on a night out.

However, because of concerns raised by Mr Evans's family, Shropshire coroner John Ellery has agreed to adjourn the inquest for a second time to call a witness from Wrexham Maelor Hospital to give evidence. Mr Evans, who has been described by friends as "the life and soul of the party", had initially been with his friend Bobby Pete, on the evening he died. The pair had been part of a stag party group taking part in the Tanat Valley Run - a bus which follows a route stopping at a number of pubs along the way.

Rail plans are on the right track

OSWESTRY'S Cambrian Heritage Railway is poised for expansion after the Government handed over its operations.

Transport Secretary Chris Grayling has agreed to hand rights over for the branch line between Gobowen, Oswestry and Blodwel. The Cambrian Railways Order will see Network Rail transfer all rights and liabilities over to the former branch line, which closed in the Beeching cuts of the 1960s, to the heritage railway group.

Several stretches of the line have already been acquired and reopened in parts. The latest move paves the way for the extension of the track as far as the Western Wharf on the edge of Oswestry, linking it with other tourism businesses such as the Stonehouse Brewery. The long-term aim is to extend the railway to the mainline station at Gobowen. It could also mean the introduction of a tram system linking Gobowen Station to the nearby orthopaedic hospital.

Cambrian trustee Roger Date said: "This will mean that all the various railways that we are running can connect up. The opportunities for Oswestry and the area are immense. The number of people that could come by train for the heritage railway and the visit the town is exponential."

The railway reopened for passengers in 2011, but the latest order means the heritage railway has a right to use the line in a way that previously rested with Network Rail, and formally approves the opening of the railway.

Prestigious award for cadet



St John Ambulance cadet Eleanor Kinloch with her awards

A TEENAGE life-saver has earned the highest award possible as a St John Ambulance cadet, becoming the first in her unit's history to do so.

Eleanor Kinloch, 18, completed proficiency awards in 24 different subjects to earn the Grand Prior Award.

Eleanor, of Chirk Road, Gobowen, was presented with the award just before her 18th birthday.

But although she had been working towards the award for several years, the achievement came as a surprise to her.

"I knew I was quite close to finishing it, but it was a complete surprise when they presented it to me at the meeting," she said.

"It was hard work but it was good fun and definitely worth it. It's helped build

skills that are useful now and will be essential in the future.

"I really enjoyed exploring a wide range of topics while working toward the award, such as ambulance awareness, crime prevention and care on duty. One subject that I found really hard but was really rewarding was cadet leadership."

"I went on three training weekends and they really pushed me out of my comfort zone, but at the same time gave me a huge confidence boost."

Jason Amey, Oswestry Unit Manager, said: "I'm extremely proud of Eleanor, because she had to put in such a lot of work for this award and she's a very valuable volunteer. She's a truly inspiring young person."

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BREEZE ABOUT TOWN

Are improvements really on the way to two of the most dangerous and frustrating stretches of road on the Powys/Shropshire border? I'm not holding my breath just yet.

But there just may be a glimmer of light at the end of a very long tunnel after Transport Minister John Hayes saw for himself the problems on the A5 and A483 last week.

The A5 stretches from Dover to Holyhead and is dual carriage-way except for a 20 mile stretch from Nesscliffe to Ruabon – one of the most dangerous roads in the country. Plans to bypass the A483 around Pant and Llanymynech are long overdue.

There is absolutely no doubt that improvements should be made to the A5 where motorists take their lives into their own hands in some kind of overtaking "dare" game – and I should know after travelling the stretch from Oswestry to Ruabon every day for 10 years. It's frightening.

Residents at Pant and Llanymynech have campaigned for 30 years for improvements on the A483 and have seen the Welsh Government fund a new bypass for Four Crosses with a promised link to a new road cutting off Llanymynech and Pant being dropped from Westminster plans when money ran out.

The good news following the Minister's visit is that he has agreed to meet up with Ken Skates, his counterpart at Welsh Government and Mr Skates is a man who knows what he is talking about. The North Walian is forced to travel the route every week on his way to Cardiff.

With traffic levels increasing on a daily basis there has never been a better case for these vital road improvements to take place and not just on safety levels but for economic reasons too.

Just when you thought Powys County Council had gone as far as it could in cutting recycling we are told that Monday doorstep waste collections will soon be stopped and the bin men will only come Tuesday to Friday. It's all to help save the council another £500,000 we are told.

Many people have asked me how that stacks up; what are the repercussions for staff and mostly just how much further are we expected to go? Questions I want answers to myself.

So I will be asking Councillor John Powell, who is the cabinet member for waste and recycling, for a full breakdown of how this move banks half a million quid, while at the same time ensuring that there is no reduction in service to the people of the county.

There is a complete lack of recognition in Mr Powell's department that cuts to household waste recycling services equals more fly-tipping which equals more costs in the long term. Should be an interesting response.



Sofas have been fly-tipped up Clee Hill in Shropshire causing an eyesore for visitors



Dumped rubble in Back Lane, Tibberton, near Newport in Shropshire caused a car to crash



These fridges were left on a country lane between Aldridge and Great Barr

Illegal rubbish dumping reaching a tipping point

Communities are taking action in response to a rise in fly-tipping. LISA O'BRIEN reports on the issue

IT blights communities and is a hefty weight on the purse of the taxpayer.

Fly-tipping has been on the rise, with some councils spending hundreds of thousands of pounds a year on clean-up costs.

The situation has become so bad in some areas that members of the local community have taken it upon themselves to do something about it.

Last month nearly 50 bags of illegally dumped waste were cleared up in Welshpool over one weekend.

The sacks of fly-tipped rubbish were cleared as part of an operation by town council staff.

The piles of rubbish were found behind Welshpool Town Hall and in the Foundry Lane area of the town.

Three fly-tippers were tracked down and warned they will be convicted if they are caught doing it again.

Each received a warning letter, and a record will now be kept of the incidents.

Residents have banded together to fight back against litter louts in their town.

A group of frustrated residents have set up the Keep Welshpool Tidy group in response to recent problems with fly-tipping.

The group has already started taking action, with volunteers out and about litter picking in the town.

In Powys, new figures from the county council also show an upward trend in fly-tipping. There were more than 1,000 reports in 2015/16 with the council spending £62,462 to clean the mess up.

This compared to 682 fly-tipping inci-



Illegal tipping has reached epidemic levels in some parts of the country

dents in 2013/14, with clean-up costs of £49,307.

But Powys County Council spokesman Lee Evans says action is being taken to try to drive down illegal dumping.

He said: "We are actively undertaking a programme of waste awareness and enforcement to educate residents and businesses about how to lawfully recycle and dispose of their waste."

Oswestry too has had its share of fly-tipping problems while other parts of Shropshire have had horrendous problems.

In one of the worse cases ever seen in the region it emerged last month that tons of rubbish including teddy bears, food packaging and even family photos had been dumped near a disused railway line off the A4169 near Horsehay, Telford.

Fly-tipping has been on the rise in England in the past few years, with 900,000 incidents in 2014/2015 – the latest figures available – and councils spending £50 million on clear-up costs.

Environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy has surveyed local authorities in England and said 70 per cent of them viewed fly-tipping as a "major problem".

It wants to work together with councils and waste contractors to raise awareness of the issue and is campaigning for fly-tipping penalties in court to be reviewed.

"We know that local authorities are at their wits' end trying to tackle the growing crisis of dumped rubbish," Alison Ogden-Newton, the charity's chief executive said.

"Our surveys show that there is a real challenge here to educate the public that not only is it not OK to fly-tip, it is illegal and can result in a substantial fine for householders and a criminal record."

The cost to Shropshire Council for clearing fly-tipping, as part of its street cleansing service, has seen a rise and fall in recent years.

It cost the authority £53,616 in 2013/14, £57,241 in 2014/15 and £40,381 in 2015/16 but incidents fell year on year.

There were 1,550 in 2014, 1,333 the following year and 1,300 in 2016.

Despite the high number of fly-tipping incidents, prosecutions have been small in comparison, but last year councils were also given powers to issue on-the-spot penalties of up to £400.

Those prosecuted through the courts can face a fine of up to £50,000 or 12 months in prison.

Shropshire Council has prosecuted two people in the last three years and issued seven littering fixed penalty notices for small-scale fly-tipping.

Council spokesman John Palmer said: "Fly-tipping incidents are investigated when practicable, and subject to what is found during the investigation, further action may be taken."

WORKING FOR YOU



In my first Adjournment Debate in the House of Commons in 1997, I described the deplorable state of the A5 north of Shrewsbury. Since then, I have lobbied Ministers to dual the whole road. There have been 1,785 casualties on this stretch of road up to the Welsh Border at Chirk since 1991. 1,407 of these were slight, 320 were serious and 58 of these were fatal. These accidents disproportionately affect my constituents with over half of those involved living in an SY, TF or CW postcode. Each death is tragic and each accident is appalling. The estimated cost to the public purse is a staggering £223.9 million. Many of these accidents could be avoided by upgrading the road, starting with dualing it entirely. The road is simply unfit for purpose.

Ten months ago I made significant progress when I arranged for the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State Andrew Jones to visit North Shropshire. I drove him along the road so that he could see for himself just how badly it needs upgrading. In October, I invited the new Minister of State for Transport John Hayes to travel to the constituency. Last week I showed him why it is so imperative that the A5 gets dualled. We stopped at Shotatton; the Minister crossed the A5 in a tractor to see for himself how dangerous it is. I then organised a meeting with a whole range of local interested parties including councillors, senior Shropshire Council officials and emergency service chiefs in Oswestry. Mr Hayes was impressed by the tremendous turnout and with the quality of the contributions. Shropshire Council gave a clear presentation, fully detailing the case for dualing the A5. I am grateful to all the attendees who clearly showed that it was a matter of local concern. Because of this effort, the Minister has agreed to consider the long-standing proposal again.

We then went to see the A483 at Pant and Llanymynech to discuss the longest running bypass campaign in the UK, which I refuse to allow officials to kill off. Although the proposal is currently dormant, we have now had the second Minister visit in 10 months and he gave a clear promise to look at it again and work with Welsh colleagues. We now have very active Welsh cooperation with Welsh Infrastructure Minister Ken Skates and Welsh Assembly member Russell George. It has also been confirmed that they are able to contribute financially to the project. I will be writing to John Hayes to ensure that he follows up on his visit. I am determined to see these two roads improved.

Owen Paterson
North Shropshire MP

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Letters

Come forward and make a difference

IN a couple of weeks time nominations open for anyone wanting to be a councillor on Shropshire Council and/or Oswestry Town Council.

Your columns often contain complaints about what our councils (and they are our councils since most members tend to forget they are supposed to be working for us) are doing, or not doing as the case may be.

Now is the ideal time for people to come forward and offer themselves as candidates for election, to "have a go" for themselves. Being a councillor means putting yourself in the hot seat, and unlike Lent, giving up a lot of free time for four years, not 40

days, but brings the satisfaction (if done right) of serving the public and hopefully making things better. Shropshire Council has faced difficult times – but now has its back against the wall: I am sure that the cry of the political parties will be "don't panic! Trust us!" But perhaps the political dogma has had its day? Is it time for a rethink – and a new slate of councillors for Oswestry? More independent thinkers whose allegiance can only be to the electorate and not to a party first? Who will be fighting for the best for the town? The town council should be a strong and independent voice for all its citizens. The town council can, if it chooses,

speak softly, but it carries a big stick – a £4 million stick. In the next few years we need good leadership, obsessed with the future development of the town for the benefit of all who live, work and visit Oswestry. I urge everyone to think about what matters to them – but more, not to ask what Shropshire or Oswestry Town Council can do for them, but what they can do for Shropshire and Oswestry.

Accept the challenge of shaping the next four years starting with those nomination papers.

MARTIN BENNETT
Oswestry

Mr Evans and his staff were ready to serve



The corner shop in Kinnerley, pictured around the 1920s. The big sign says "The Corner Shop, W. Evans, Draper, Grocer, Provision Dealer, Hop, Corn and Seed Merchant." No doubt those standing outside are Mr Evans and some of his staff.

Think again about how we spend our country's money

I READ that 78 per cent of a recent poll says this government should redirect the bloated foreign aid budget into the NHS.

One cannot disagree with that, as a lot of the money sent abroad goes to corrupt states that waste it. One example is sending rockets into space, plus many others such as pop groups I read about being given vast sums of it.

Perhaps also the powers that be behind the ridiculous waste of money going into altering all the islands here in Telford and Shrewsbury, would have done more good by investing it into the health service.

This is just a total misuse of public money by altering islands that were working perfectly OK before.

As the saying goes if it ain't broke, don't fix it. It makes one wonder whom these people are, and what lies inside their heads. They don't seem to do the best for the communities they serve and could use the funds far more intelligently and help the old and needy.

L THOMAS
Wellington

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Letters should be brief and **MUST** include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Politicians see worms turning

THE year 2016 was not a good year for professional politicians, with the result of the referendum, American election and many more.

The problem is basic arrogance and 'I know better' attitude of some.

The worm has turned. The people gave their verdict.

Let's hope we all can see some light in the tunnel. Work together, for the good of all and the nation.

JOHN R BROWN
Shrewsbury

Countries in EU need Britain more than we need them

IF we only had a "Churchillian" figure in power again!

There would be no messing about trying to undo the treaties.

The keys to the EU would have been posted back, long ago, through the Brussels/Stuttgart office door. The £50million daily payments would have been stopped on June 24 by the bank and the advice given to the EU is that you sort out your own mess. We henceforth would continue trading with the whole world which if you look at the place of manufacture on the goods you purchase, would already seem to be the case. The EU can continue to send us in the UK all their cars as our roads would seem fairly empty without them, that is as good a reason as any why we need not be beholding to the EU.

They have always needed us more than we needed them.

The sad thing is that it has taken so long to realise that we were giving much more than we received from them.

PETER HARMAN
Tibberton

Don't make Farage into something he is clearly not

I HAD to read Will Knott's letter (February 16) several times to check if it was an attempt at satire. But no, Mr Knott appears genuinely to suggest that Nigel Farage is being treated 'unfairly and discourteously'.

I don't dispute that Mr Farage played a big part in the referendum result, but I would like to ask in what capacity, exactly, should he represent the UK in 'the Brexit talks'. He is just one of the UK's 73 MEPs; moreover, he has stood for election to the UK Parliament on seven occasions, and failed to get elected every single time.

We are told Mr Farage has been treated with 'contempt, vilification and rudeness' by the media. That's an astounding conclusion given that he is, disproportionately, a permanent fixture on TV and radio schedules (including his own show on LBC), and the print media is overwhelmingly on his side of the argument.

However, Mr Knott really stretches the imagination when he states that Nigel Farage usually responds 'with polite affability'. Really? On June 28, as part of his wild referendum celebrations, he embarked on a speech in the European Parliament where he set out to insult most of his fellow MEPs. He told the assembled Members: '... that virtually none of you have ever done a proper job in your lives...'. Whatever anyone's view of the referendum result, this was a total embarrassment for our country and demonstrates that he is not remotely suitable for any part of any negotiations. The man sitting behind him on that occasion (with his head in his hands) just happens to be a heart surgeon. Many others are important players in all walks of life, and yes, some are even bankers, just like Nigel Farage. It beggars belief that some are even calling for him to be awarded a knighthood.

We all have our opinions on the current situation, but please don't make this man out to be what he clearly is not.

PAUL ASTELL
Whittington

Turn down the music please

AM I the only person who finds it distressing and stressful running the gauntlet of shops with loud piped music in the background?

I might add that I am a chronic tinnitus sufferer.

This loud music (why does it have to be so loud with voices that scream and screech) only exacerbates the condition when out shopping – in particular inside the Telford Shopping Centre. During Christmas it was a complete nightmare. So hail Marks and Spencer who, although only since Christmas, have removed piped music totally within their store – absolute heaven.

Whilst I am not sure if this is a national initiative on their behalf, I would like to think so.

I'm no prude and I can tolerate low volume music, but I feel so strongly about this situation that I believe a national campaign should be launched.

MR J TWISELTON
Leegomery

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Boundaries plan moves forward

PEOPLE have a second chance to have their say on a controversial shake-up of parliamentary boundaries.

The shake-up could see the Montgomeryshire constituency disappear completely.

The Boundary Commissions for England and Wales have opened a second public consultation to allow people to have their say on the plans to reduce the total number of Parliamentary constituencies from 650 to 600.

An initial 12-week consultation was held in the autumn last year, giving the public the first chance to view and comment on the plans.

Sam Hartley, secretary to the Boundary Commission for England, said the initial consultation attracted almost 20,000 responses.

Montgomeryshire MP Glyn Davies said the changes would "demolish" his constituency, and that he would not seek re-election if they were implemented at the next General Election.

People have until March 27 to express their views.

Event will explain councillors' role

AHEAD of forthcoming local elections, Oswestry Town Council is holding an open morning at the Guildhall on Saturday between 9.30am and 12.30pm.

Officers will give potential councillors a talk about the work of the authority and explain the role and responsibilities of being a councillor.

Nominations open for the elections on Monday. All 18 seats on the town council will be up for re-election. The new council term will start in May for four years. The council is one of the leading local councils in England and Wales and has a successful and proven track record of service delivery and has won many awards, including the accolade of being the NALC Star Council 2016/17.

One-way road system is defended by council

Report by Sally Williams

A COUNCIL has defended its controversial one-way traffic system saying it is no worse than in any other town – however there are plans to slow motorists down.

Confused motorists have been forced to reverse at traffic lights into the busy crossroads near the Royal Oak in Welshpool and some have turned left into two lanes of oncoming traffic at Brook Street instead of right.

But Robert Robinson, town clerk of Welshpool Town Council, said: "People just need to learn to drive and pedestrians need to look where they are going."

"The problems with our one-way traffic system are no worse than in any other town – just look at Shrewsbury or Brecon."

"It is just not an issue."

"Love it or hate it the system is here."

The town clerk added: "However, we accept that the main street has all the traffic and we do hope to improve it for pedestrians crossing."

"And a speed check sign is to be installed at Jehu Road."

He said councillors had recommended the positioning of an illuminated 'slow down' sign and the positioning of a dummy speed camera.

Meanwhile, Montgomeryshire AM Russell George is still fighting to improve the issue for residents who have been complaining on Facebook about the problems they have experienced in navigating the system on foot and in the car.

He said: "Last year it was agreed that Welsh Government would undertake some work to assess the options of Brook Street being reverted back from one-way to a two-way traffic system to ease the ongoing issues in the town."

Village group receives a cash boost



Nick Heard from the Three Parishes Big Local Partnership presents the cheque to Lisa Lear and Dee Thomas

THE newly formed St Martins Baby and Toddler Group has received a £500 grant from the Three Parishes Big Local Partnership to go towards children's tables and chairs, soft play equipment, cushions for story time and leaflets promoting the group.

Nick Heard, chairman of the partnership, which is responsible for a £1 million lottery grant for St Martins,

Weston Rhyn and Gobowen, visited the group for song time and to present the cheque.

He said: "The Three Parishes Big Local Partnership was pleased to be able to support this new baby and toddler group. It is a great example of what can happen when people in our community come forward with new ideas, and then put them into action. As well as our £500 grant, we

also supported the group's founders Lisa Lear and Dee Thomas to get a grant from UnLtd for the baby and toddler group. UnLtd is an organisation that supports people who want to bring about change or introduce new things in their communities."

The two women, both mums, saw there was a need for a mums and toddler group in St Martins and opened one in September last year.

Success of new charity shops pleases group bosses

A TRIO of new charity shops in Shropshire are celebrating an "outstanding" first few months – with bosses saying they have been overwhelmed by the public support.

The shops are run by The Rural Charity – a new offshoot of the Shropshire and West Midlands Agricultural Society – in Oswestry, Shrewsbury and Wem.

The charity took on shops, which were previously run by the Shropshire branch of Relate, before it ran into financial difficulties at the end of last year. The Rural Charity shops opened just before Christmas, and society director, Ian Bebbington, said they had seen a very strong start. "Running charity shops is a completely new venture for us and we have been absolutely delighted with our first few months of trading," he said.

"It has been an outstanding start and we are looking forward to helping the shops establish themselves as long-term fixtures of Shropshire's high streets."

"We have been particularly pleased with the response from people donating goods for the shops. Each shop is selling predominantly furniture and household items and the quality of goods being donated has been really high. We are getting lots of positive comments from customers and the sales are reflecting that."

"The shops are being run by the same area manager who looked after the Relate furniture stores, and that experience has really helped us hit the ground running."

All of the proceeds from each shop goes to the Shropshire and West Midlands Agricultural Society charity, which exists to support farmers and rural communities in the area.

The society organises the annual Shropshire County Show and runs the West Mid Showground in Shrewsbury.

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Council to take over collections at kerbside

POWYS County Council will take over kerbside recycling collections from an environmental charity.

Cae Post, based in Trewern, Powys, currently collects the waste, but earlier this year it was announced the charity would be making 17 members of staff redundant after losing a major contract with Powys County Council.

Cae Post served 5,000 homes in the Welshpool, Newtown, Shrewsbury and Llanidloes areas under the 15-year deal, which will end on March 31.

The kerbside recycling collections will be taken on by Powys County Council. Householders will be able to continue to use their black/blue box to recycle paper and card and their red box to recycle cans and plastics, but they will be given an aqua box to recycle their clean glass bottles and jars.

The aqua boxes and a leaflet on the change will be delivered to households later this month.

Councillor John Powell, Powys County Council's cabinet member for waste and recycling, said: "We will start collecting kerbside recycling from these properties from April.

"Before we start collecting, we will be providing each household with a new aqua box to recycle their clean glass bottles and jars. Households can continue to use their red and black/blue boxes for their rest of their recycling which will continue to be collected weekly. We have had a long relationship with Cae Post and we thank them for the contribution they have made to recycling in Powys, they have certainly helped us to achieve our targets over the years. Recycling in Powys has improved considerably since we originally started working with Cae Post which means that we are now operating on a much larger scale."

New bulk recycle centre could be based at village

Report by Naomi Penrose

A BULK recycling waste centre to cater for recycling waste for residents in Mid Wales could be sited in the Newtown area.

The Powys County Council owned and run centre at Abermule, near Newtown, would see recycling from homes and businesses throughout Montgomeryshire brought to the site before being released and then sent on for recycling in other parts of the UK.

The site, on land currently owned by the Welsh Government at the entrance to the village, could also be partly developed for new business units.

The local authority has approved the purchase of the site from the Welsh Government but it will now need to seek planning permission for the development of the recycling centre and business units.

The plans would also include new high-way infrastructure, an electricity substation and a sewerage pumping station.

The council's cabinet last week considered whether to agree to the site being put forward for the proposed developments, which would be subject to planning approval.

Although the report states that planning permission to build any of the units on the site has yet to be obtained, the council's planning department have raised no concerns over proposed use of the site.

The report also says if approved, the site will help ensure the council is able to "meet and hopefully exceed" the recycling targets of the Welsh Government and reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill. It states: "The proposal will make the council more sustainable as it will have newer more energy efficient units within its portfolio."

Exhibition centre has new displays



The owner of the coffee shop at Oswestry Visitor and Exhibition Centre Carol Roberts takes a look at the new exhibition of work by artist Jon Young which is now on show

TWO new displays have gone on show at Oswestry Visitor and Exhibition Centre.

The art of enamelling is perfectly used by Maggie Furmanek in her pictures, bowls and trays. Maggie, who is affiliated to the Guild of Enamellers, takes natural themes for inspiration in her designs.

Jon Young uses acrylics in his paintings.

A member of the Border Visual Arts group, Jon is exhibiting both landscapes and his figurative studies.

The Visitor and Exhibition Centre stands in the grounds of St Oswald's Parish Church, run by Oswestry

Town Council and the Oswestry Borderland Tourist Group.

Formerly called Holbache House, it was originally the site of Oswestry Grammar School founded in 1407.

When the school moved to bigger premises it became a workshop then a laundry and was even a toy museum for a time.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Plan for traveller site thrown out

PLANS for a traveller site to be built on agricultural land have been unanimously refused by councillors.

The application for three traveller pitches – originally six – on fields near Drenewydd Farm at Park Hall, near Oswestry, was rejected by members of Shropshire Council's north planning committee, after it attracted more than 200 objections.

After a lengthy debate members agreed the site was "in the wrong place" after they paid it a visit earlier in the day. Councillor Paul Wynn, who represents the Prees ward, proposed that the plans should be thrown out.

He said: "I propose the application is refused for three reasons, the visual impact of the site, the safety of the families there as they are right by the railway there and I don't think it's a viable site financially to set it up."

Network Rail also objected to the plans because of the location of the site and the footpath level crossing "due to the added safety risk of young families and young children being able to access the railway".

Canal is the topic of society meeting

THE Montgomery Canal will be the topic at the next meeting of Oswestry and District Civic Society.

The speaker will be Michael Limbrey, chairman of the Shrewsbury District and North Wales Branch of the Inland Waterways Association.

He will talk about the canal, its past, its present and its future.

Half the canal is open to boats again and is an attraction for visitors and an asset for local communities.

The talk will be on Thursday next week at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre, Broadwalk, Oswestry.

Admission is £4, free to members and reimbursed if joining the society.



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Companies at food and drink event

PRODUCERS from Powys are set to join UK and worldwide buyers, journalists, dignitaries and industry leaders in Newport for Wales's first ever international food and drink event.

BlasCymru/TasteWales takes place at the Celtic Manor resort on March 23-24 and will bring the entire industry under one roof to showcase the best of our nation's growing food and drink offer.

Over 100 of Wales's top producers will be exhibiting their products, with Powys's increasingly influential role in the sector represented by the likes of Radnor Preserves from New Radnor, Brecon Brewing, Love at First Bake from Brecon, Hilltop Honey near Newtown, Radnor Preserves, Montgomery Waters, and Trailhead Fine Foods near Welshpool. Delegates at the event include buyers and representatives from around the world.

Site's extension plans are backed

PLANS to extend a traveller site near Welshpool have been approved by councillors.

The application for two additional pitches, an amenity building and parking, together with the relocation of an existing field access at Leighton Arches Gypsy and Traveller Site, near Welshpool, received unanimous backing from Powys County Council's planning committee.

Louise Evans, the authority's planning officer, said the need for development came about following an assessment, the council were required to undertake, which was deemed necessary under guidance from the Welsh Government.

The plans for the traveller site extension received no objections, the council heard.

Farming is the subject of breakfast chatter

Report by Naomi Penrose

MONTGOMERYSHIRE farmers opened their kitchens to put the spotlight on farming matters, the importance of the rural economy and to promote the great Welsh breakfast produce available.

Two breakfasts were held as part of the Wales wide farmhouse breakfast campaign, which were attended by more than 60 people in the county.

The first breakfast was held at Trewythen and was hosted by the Roche Davies family and a further breakfast was hosted by FUF Montgomeryshire county chairman Mark Williams and his wife Helen at Pen Y Derw, Forden, Welshpool. Local breakfast produce was kindly supplied by Neuadd Fach Baconry and local farmers Rob Corfield of Bronynant and Ian Roberts of Y Ddol. FUF county executive officer Emyr Wyn Davies said: "I would first of all like to thank everyone who has sponsored our breakfasts and those of you who supported the events." He added: "A special thank you also goes to our MP Glyn Davies, and Russell George AM, for joining us around the breakfast table. This was the first time we have hosted these breakfast functions here in Montgomeryshire and what a success they were. This breakfast campaign provided an opportunity to promote the quality premium local produce that farmers grow for us every day of the year and throughout breakfast week we put a spotlight on the importance of our rural economy."

In addition to highlighting why farming matters, the county also raised £585 for the FUF president's charity - BHF Cymru.



Farming matters were the subject of discussion around the breakfast table

Call for more to join first aider group

A PLEA has been made for more people in Mid Wales to become trained in first aid and provide vital emergency medical treatment.

St John Cymru Wales Llanfyllin Division has moved to a new home in Welshpool and has appealed for new members to step forward.

Andrew Smith, divisional officer in charge, said: "As a member of St John Cymru Wales you will be part of a team supplying first aid in your local community."

"As well as local events there will also be the opportunity to attend county events like the Wales Rally GB, Royal Welsh Show and other bigger events like international rugby at the Millennium Stadium as well as football and concerts in Cardiff and so on."

Mr Smith said there are plans to set up a youth section, starting with cadets, before the end of this year, but prior to that more adults are required to join up.

He said: "You can learn as little, or as much as you feel you can handle."

For more information about the group, contact andrew.smith@llanfyllin.sjaw.org.uk

Talk on aviation for rotary group

MIKE Pepper, president of Welshpool Rotary Club, extended a welcome to visitor Jan Eagles at the group's recent meeting.

The Welshpool High School Youth Speaks team would be attending the District Final in Wrexham, the meeting was told. The meeting also heard arrangements were well in hand for the Canadian exchange student visit.

Speaker was Rtn Phil Marsh, who gave a talk about aviation physics.

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College course opens up a new career in teaching



IT tutor Andy Cawthray formalised his qualifications through the teacher training pathway at North Shropshire College

AN Introduction to Teaching and Learning Course is starting at North Shropshire College on March 21.

The college has been delivering successful teacher training courses at the Oswestry Campus for many years.

IT tutor Andy Cawthray said: "I had a long career in the world of IT both with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and IBM, however a few years back I stepped away from the corporate world to pursue a career as a freelance writer and poultry breeder. It was not long after that the opportunity arose to teach short poul-

Commercial feature

try courses through North Shropshire College. I discovered a huge amount of job satisfaction when working with learners which inspired me to study education further, and formalise my qualifications through the initial teacher training pathway."

Rosemarie Sellers teaches on the Resilience programme. She said: "The introductory teacher training created an opportunity for me teaching in Further Education and I am now in my fifth year of teaching and just about to complete my full teaching qualification."



Resilience teacher Rosemarie Sellers

School that offers careers advice from Prep to Seniors



Public speaking practice for Senior boys at Shrewsbury High Prep

The appointment of Mrs Gemma Parish as the new head of careers and UCAS at Shrewsbury High School is timely indeed.

Today's careers education and guidance needs to react to the fast pace of change in the labour market and students need to be more aware of what skills and knowledge employers are looking for and what they can do to help themselves to stand out from the crowd. With an ambition to begin students thinking and preparing for the work place earlier, a couple of exciting joint projects with the Prep School boys

Commercial feature

in Years 7 and 8 mean that the culture of considering employability skills development and evidencing will start early; challenging students to think like entrepreneurs, creatively and use their initiative; problem solving and verbal reasoning skills; presenting to their peers and an invited audience; these are all skills employers want to see.

Numeracy, literacy and communication skills are still high on the list of employers' priorities, but they also want to see that students can work in teams and organise themselves whilst working towards objectives.

Mrs Parish explains: "Work experience and internships will allow students to gain a valuable insight into the field of work they are interested in."

"No longer is work experience to be seen as a break from school and learning, but instead allows students to reflect on what they have seen and done and how they can learn from that."

"Hence the value of impartial, accurate and current careers advice and guidance is paramount if our students are to succeed."

Shrewsbury High Prep School's Open Morning takes place on Thursday March 16. To find out more, please call Sharon Jones on (01743) 494038.

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Help needed for Oz performance

SCARECROWS, munchkins and Ozites are needed to step forward for a performance of The Wizard of Oz. The production will be performed as part of the Trefonen Hill Walk weekend from May 26 to 29.

Jackie Knight, from Trefonen Village Players, said: "Children and adults are needed to play various roles."

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The weekend will also include several long walks, the longest being 16 miles around the local countryside, as well as shorter walks aimed at families and children, cross country fun runs, and entertainment nights at the local village hall.

Money raised is shared between a local charity and a foreign charity. Last year's event raised more than £10,000 for Midland Air Ambulance and Médecins Sans Frontières.

Residents get closer to nature

CARE home residents have enjoyed getting closer to nature – without leaving the comfort of their lounge.

The residents at Chirk Court care home took part in a craft session where they cooked up a tasty treat for the wild birds which visit their garden.

Judith Gavin, spokeswoman for the home, said: "It's not just the residents who enjoy tasty nutritious meals – thanks to the latest craft activity, wild birds visiting the gardens are in for a tasty treat too. At a recent craft session the residents put together some special bird nibbles based with RSPB recommended ingredients – good quality bird seed, raisins, peanuts, grated cheese and suet."

Lorraine rewarded for blocking kidnap gang

Report by Sam Morris

A WOMAN has described the dramatic moment she used her car as a blockade to foil the kidnapping of a family in Oswestry.

Lorraine Duncan, 50, put herself in danger as she used her own vehicle to block the getaway car of a gang.

She has received a bravery award for her actions, which helped police rescue a terrified woman and her three children.

Despite being threatened with a crowbar, Mrs Duncan managed to delay the kidnap long enough for police to be alerted.

Although the gang managed to get away with the woman and children in a second car, police tracked them down.

Three defendants are now serving a total of more than 17 years for conspiracy to kidnap. The incident happened on March 4 last year in Leg Street in Oswestry.

Mrs Duncan, who works at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital, was presented with an award by High Sheriff Christine Holmes.

She said it never crossed her mind to drive on and ignore what was happening, adding: "One of the men had a crowbar and it was then that I realised something was very wrong. I saw the lady being manhandled and I thought if I could block their car it may stop them."

"I have got a daughter and this lady is somebody's daughter so it never crossed my mind to move on and not get involved. I just thought if I could help in any small way I should. I know I did the right thing. It was a very small part of a big thing. There were very brave people that were out there – I was in the security of my car."

Mrs Duncan was presented with a certificate and £250 for her courageous effort.



Lorraine Duncan, left, receiving her certificate from High Sheriff of Shropshire Christine Holmes

Egg demand 'offers an opportunity'

GROWING consumer demand for free range eggs is creating new business opportunities for Shropshire farmers wishing to diversify their enterprises.

That's the view of Shaun Jones, a rural professional director at leading regional auctioneers, valuers, surveyors and estate agents Halls.

"Free range egg production has the advantage of being sustainable in the long term, profitable and compatible with other enterprises," he said. "It's not reliant on subsidy, so it is less exposed to government interference, which increases the appeal as Brexit looms. Egg units typically being established now are for 32,000 birds, which require around 80 acres of adjoining grassland to meet the free range status, or 40 acres if they include two acres of new woodland."

"A strong annual return can be achieved to cover the capital cost and finance and a respectable profit is more appealing than most farm enterprises. Contracts are available with national operators or local companies. One company seeking new producers is Lloyds Animal Feeds, which supply birds, feed, consultancy and purchase eggs on contract."

Church to host a fashion show

A CHURCH in Oswestry is holding a charity fashion show offering high street brands including Boden, Marks and Spencer, Principles, and many others at a fraction of the retail cost.

The show will be held at Hope Church on Laburnum Drive on April 1 at 7.30pm. Money raised will go to the Oswestry Special Olympics charity.

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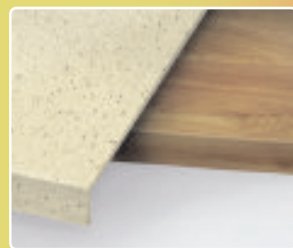


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Commercial feature

Mothering Sunday has been a traditional way to show our mums how much they mean to us for many years.

Children like to shower their mums with gifts and affection on this very special family day. And in return many mums like to demonstrate how proud they are of their children.

However, a new survey has given some friendly advice to mums – and dads – on how not to go so far to show their pride that they end up embarrassing their children.

The new study has found that the primary route to embarrassment at the hands of parents is the internet, with three quarters of the mortifying things kids say their parents do taking place online.

The research by Post Office Broadband revealed today's teens are suffering social media mortification at the hands of their parents, with more than three quarters of youngsters claiming they are constantly left red-faced because of their parents' actions on sites like Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

Indeed, more than one in 10 say they feel more embarrassed by their parents being online than in real life.

The report found that more parents are online than ever before, with almost three quarters of parents and 38 per cent of grandparents using sites such as Facebook to keep up with teenagers' social lives.

As a result, online offences dominate the top 10 list of embarrassing things parents do.

Complaints from teenagers include parents posting old family pictures online and embarrassing comments being left for all to see. Despite the objections, nearly a third of parents admit they frequently post baby pictures of their teens.

Vicki Shotbolt, chief executive of the



As Mother's Day approaches, mums – and dads – are being advised on how not to embarrass their children online

parenting site Parentzone, points out there's a big difference between sharing baby photos and special moments and posting obviously embarrassing snaps online.

"Make sure you're sharing with the people you want to share with by using privacy settings," she advises.

"And if you're going to publish a photo to the world, make sure it's one you, and your child, would be happy seeing on a billboard now or at any time in the future."

A fifth of parents say they often add their children's school friends as Facebook friends, despite 17 per cent of teens protesting that this mortifies them.

Possibly as a result of mums and dads 'stealing' teens' Facebook friends, and sharing content inappropriately, one in 10 teenagers admit they hide online posts from family members.

However, some of their parents just don't get it - and in fact 14 per cent believe their

offspring think they're cooler for using social media. That said, it's not just about your kids thinking you're cool, as a savvy 17 per cent of parents admit they follow their children online just to keep tabs on them. While many parental misdemeanours occur online, that doesn't mean kids aren't embarrassed by their mums and dads in traditional ways too.

Old-fashioned family faux pas include parents being badly dressed or having to be seen in public together. And even waiting in sight when

teens are being picked up from school/parties, as opposed to staying in the shadows or round a corner, is a source of embarrassment for an ungrateful 22 per cent of youngsters.

"Parents embarrassing their children is an eternal truth," admits Shotbolt.

"It has always happened and always will. However, there's something very different about causing public distress to children and building a digital footprint of them that causes them upset."



Mums can be so embarrassing sometimes!



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Commercial feature

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A visit to the The Wynnstay Hotel and Spa in Oswestry will make Mother's Day an extra memorable occasion



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Roasted sirloin of beef with Yorkshire pudding and a rich red wine and thyme jus
A galette of roasted courgettes, tomato and grilled Halloumi and a red pepper coulis
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Town offers a warm welcome

Commercial feature

Visitors to Chirk are always sure of a warm welcome from traders and residents.

The town has a whole host of friendly independent traders and Chirk itself has a fascinating history.

Chirk Castle, a National Trust property, is a medieval castle. The castle is a popular tourist attraction and stages many family events. Attractions in the area apart from Chirk Castle include a section of Offa's Dyke and the Chirk Aqueduct on the Llangollen Canal, built in 1801 by Thomas Telford. The Glyn Valley Tramway operated from here.

The Parish Church of St Mary's is a Grade I listed building. The current church building was begun during the 11th century by the Normans, although it is believed that an older place of worship, dedicated to St Tysilio, had existed on the site.

The current church was known by the dedication of St Tysilio until the late 15th or early 16th century, after which it was re-dedicated to St Mary. Chirk was formerly a coal mining community with coal being worked since the 17th century. The largest of these collieries were Black Park and Brynkinallt.

Chirk was a coaching stop on the old mail coach route along the A5 from London to Holyhead. The Llangollen branch of the Shropshire Union Canal runs near to Chirk.

The canal crosses the Ceiriog Valley from England into Wales along Thomas Telford's aqueduct. Many visitors come to the area to enjoy the wonders of the Ceiriog Valley, well known as one of the most beautiful valleys in the country.



The attractive town centre of Chirk offers various shops and services to visitors and locals alike



Chirk Castle offers plenty for the family

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Spotlight On: Chirk
A photograph of Chirk Castle and the surrounding grounds, with a small inset photo of a boat on the canal.

PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY
GUIDE TO HOME
BUYING AND
LETTING

19
Oswestry & Border Chronicle
Thursday, March 9, 2017

Barn conversion is set around a spacious courtyard

A barn conversion that mixes traditional build with contemporary eco friendly features, 6, Newnes Barns, Ellesmere is among a range of converted farm buildings set round a spacious courtyard, in rolling Shropshire farmland.

It is for sale through Bowen Son & Watson at £279,995. The property offers the best of rural, contemporary living. The look of the original mid 19th century model farm has been faithfully conserved, whilst each of the eight individually designed dwellings is equipped with 21st century technology such as ground source heat pumps, low energy lighting and surface water recycling. Converted in 2007/2008 the accommodation briefly consists of an entrance hallway and cloakroom/WC, a spacious living/dining/kitchen area, utility room, galleried landing and three bedrooms, one with an en-suite and a family bathroom. Outside the property has a south facing rear garden and allotment, parking to the front, extra visitor parking and communal grassland areas. The Newnes is a small hamlet situated in gently rolling farmland close to the picturesque market town of Ellesmere. The property has traditional windows and the doors are wood framed and the internal doors are ledge and brace solid oak. The ground floor, from the front door to the back door is natural travertine stone with under-floor heating. There are exposed beams throughout and exposed brickwork on the first floor. It is approached from the large central courtyard over a private York stoned forecourt. The entrance hall is light and airy and has a coat cupboard and under-stairs storage cupboard. The living and dining area has two windows overlooking the courtyard and a log-effect fire with a remote control. This area opens into the kitchen space. A 'Varde' free standing kitchen, this has a mix of drawers cupboards and shelves with wood and stainless steel tops.

The utility room has base units, a sink and plumbing and space for a washing machine, ground source heat pump and hot water system. Upstairs is a galleried landing/study area with a skylight. Bedroom one has a wardrobe, garden and countryside views and an en-suite shower room. Bedroom two overlooks the courtyard and has a skylight. Bedroom three has wood-effect flooring and is currently used as an art studio. The bathroom has a contemporary suite.

KEY FEATURES

Barn conversion
Spacious courtyard setting
Mix of rural/contemporary living
Eco friendly features
Three bedrooms

ELLESMERE

£279,995



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HYSSINGTON
£330,000

Refurbished stone built cottage enjoys far reaching views

A refurbished detached stone built cottage, Ivy Cottage at Hyssington, Montgomery has far reaching views over the surrounding countryside.

It is for sale through Balfours at £330,000.

It has an entrance hall, a sitting room, dining room, study, four bedrooms, a kitchen, conservatory, bathroom, one en-suite, lawn, parking and a garage.

Ivy Cottage is situated in a delightful rural position on the eastern fringes of the village of Church Stoke between Montgomery and Bishops Castle.

The area is well served with a range of local amenities including the renowned Harry Tuffins supermarket, whilst a more comprehensive range can be found in Shrewsbury, Ludlow and Newtown. Both Welshpool and Craven Arms have regional rail links to the intercity network and there are good road



communications to both the West Midlands via the M54 and South Wales.

This area of the country is popular not only for its beauty but for its abundance of recreational opportunities. There are lovely walks and rides throughout the surrounding South Shropshire hills and nearby Offa's Dyke. Other opportunities include racing at Ludlow and golf at Welshpool, Ludlow, Church Stretton and Shrewsbury.

Ivy Cottage is a refurbished detached stone built cottage with accommodation over two floors. The property retains many attractive and period features. It is presented to a very high standard and is well proportioned throughout with views over the surrounding countryside.

The ground floor provides two reception rooms, a study and a modern kitchen which leads to a large traditionally constructed conservatory to the rear of the house.

The first floor has four good sized double bedrooms including an en suite and a family bathroom.

Outside, the gardens of the property include a lawned area, a patio and a gravel driveway with a garage and off street parking. Balfours represents the very best in property services for all its clients across the country in a friendly and professional manner, said a spokesman for the selling agents.

For more details contact Balfours on 01743 353511.

Superb property includes two separate homes and lawned gardens

TREFLACH
£425,000 >>>

This superb detached residence in Oak Lane, Treflach is a high spec self build consisting of a spacious three double bed roomed home plus a detached triple garage with a self-contained apartment.

It is for sale through Town & Country at £425,000. The property sits in landscaped grounds with lawned gardens and extensive parking. Situated in a tucked away location in the pretty village of Treflach, all amenities are close by with Oswestry town a five minute drive away. The property offers great scope for two families with adaptable accommodation. The property has been built to a very high standard by the present owners and includes superb insulation, high specification fixtures and fittings along with Cat 5 wiring installed. All rooms are decorated immaculately with carpeting and flooring being in 'as new' condition.

A gravelled driveway leads to the property and is accessed via two farm style timber gates. The driveway provides parking for numerous vehicles leading to the triple garage. The rear garden includes a patio and lawn.

Contact Town & Country on 01691 679631.



Super Georgian country house has lawns and tennis court

OSWESTRY
£1,250,000 <<<

A fully restored Georgian country house adjoining parkland and open countryside, Pen-y-Llan Hall on the edge of Oswestry is for sale through Bowen Son & Watson at £1,250,000.

It has a vestibule, entrance hall, inner hall, drawing room, study, morning room, dining room, conservatory, cloakroom/WC, sitting room, playroom, kitchen, utility room, pantry and cellars.

It also has a master bedroom with dressing room and en-suite bathroom, four further bedrooms all en-suite, bedroom six, dressing room, two attic rooms, a bathroom, detached former annexe with planning permission for a workshop, stores, kitchen, cloakroom/WC, garaging and domestic buildings.

There are also lawned gardens and a tennis court and woodland of around 2.8 acres.

Contact Bowen Son & Watson on 01691 652367.

Spacious town house is sited in a quiet position near amenities

OSWESTRY
£159,950 >>>

A spacious town house with off-street parking, 24 Beresford Gardens in Oswestry is located in a quiet position within walking distance of the town centre.

It is on the market through JJ Dell&Co with a guide price of £159,950 and there is no chain. The property benefits from gas fired central heating and there is an entrance hall, cloakroom, living room, kitchen, bathroom, two bedrooms, front garden and two parking spaces. The property occupies a convenient position within the town only a few minutes walking distance into the town's shopping centre. The home is an end-terraced house traditionally constructed of brick under a slated roof. The accommodation has the benefit of recently recovered roof, gas fired central heating and pvc double glazing. Outside the property has the benefit of off street parking to the front, providing two spaces.

Contact JJ Dell&Co on 01691 653437 and 680212.



Property benefits from generous sized gardens

LLANERFYL
£235,000

A three-bedroom detached bungalow, Glyn Teg, Llanerfyl, is on the market with Halls for £235,000.

The property is conveniently located some three miles from Llanfair Caereinion, and some 12 miles west of the Mid Wales market town of Welshpool.

Built circa 1990 and constructed from a wooden frame and blocks rendered under a pitched slated roof, the property benefits from generous sized gardens together with pasture and amenity woodland extending to 5.764 acres.

In brief, the accommodation provides for entrance porch, entrance hall, good sized sitting room with open fire, large open-plan fitted kitchen/dining/living room, with access off to two conservatories, one of which currently serves as a utility. Off an inner landing are three double bedrooms and a family bathroom.

Outside the property is approached via a driveway to a 'Miletex' forecourt providing ample parking and turning space. The gardens, which are mainly laid to



Superb cottage with balcony is in location on edge of forest

LLANGADFAN
£175,000 <<<

Bliss Cottage, 4 Hendre, Llangadfan, is a delightfully charming two-bedroomed semi-detached cottage in a beautiful location on the edge of Dyfnant Forest.

Having a balcony, separate lounge and dining room, kitchen and wet room, it is for sale through Morris Marshall & Poole at £175,000.

A number of external items may be available by separate negotiation including a wood fired hot tub, an attractive insulated "Hobbit House" with wood stove, a large timber shed and a timber potting shed/greenhouse. From the paved patio the gardens lead across the front of the house with a raised lawn in a sunny position with good views.

A pathway then leads to large side gardens with woodland beyond.

There is a stream-fed pond and a second still pond.

Contact Morris Marshall & Poole on 01691 679595 for more information.



lawn, interspersed with trees and shrubbery, surround the property, and to the front is an enclosed pasture with stream along the northern edge, beyond which is a most attractive block of mixed deciduous woodland. The property benefits from UPVC double glazing throughout and oil fired central heating.

The large gardens and grounds makes this an ideal property for those aspiring to become self-sufficient smallholders growing their own fruit and vegetables and keeping poultry, sheep and pigs, or for equine use, such as for a child's pony.

Please note the property is subject to an agricultural tie.

Contact Halls on 01938 555552 for more details.





New mortgage to give buyers a helping hand with stamp duty

A new mortgage giving home buyers a helping hand to pay some or all of their stamp duty costs has been launched by a major bank.

Barclays said its homebuyer cashback mortgage is designed to help first-time buyers or home movers recover the cost of stamp duty on their new property purchases.

Borrowers will need a 20 per cent deposit to take out the five-year fixed-rate deals, which have a rate of 2.69 per cent and no fee.

The deals come with £2,500 cashback for people borrowing between £150,000 and £500,000. This cashback amount would cover stamp duty on properties valued at up to £250,000 – so for people buying homes worth more than this the cashback would cover a chunk rather than all of the cost.

And £1,250 cashback is available on mortgages between £100,000 and £150,000, covering stamp duty on homes worth up to around £187,000.

Barclays will give the cashback directly to borrowers, so it is up to them whether they want to use it to cover their stamp duty costs or something else, such as paying for furniture for their new home.

Stamp duty is paid by buyers on homes priced at over £125,000.

Craig Calder, director of Barclays Mortgages, said the deals would help to remove a major barrier faced by many first-time buyers and home movers.

Rachel Springall, a finance expert at Moneyfacts.co.uk, said: "Whilst the cashback from Barclays will be seen as a huge helping hand, buyers must make sure that the overall deal is the most cost effective choice for them.

"Buyers will need to stump up a 20 per cent deposit to be eligible for the stamp duty cashback, which might not be feasible for some."

Ms Springall said some alternative deals which may not offer as much cashback may however have lower rates _ so it is important for home buyers to weigh up the overall costs of the deals available.

She highlighted a deal from Principality Building Society offering first-time buyers with a 15% deposit £1,000 cashback, with a mortgage rate at 2.45 per cent for five years, with no product fee and a free valuation.

HSBC also has a no-fee mortgage fixed for five years at 2.34 per cent for first-time buyers with a 20% deposit, and the package covers legal fees and a valuation, Ms Springall said.

● The Land Registry in England and Wales has launched a consultation on proposals to allow it to introduce new digital conveyancing and registration including e-mortgages.

It is seeking responses from the property industry and individuals to changes that will allow it to change the rules so it can move forward with fully digital conveyancing documents with e-signatures.

It also wants to introduce new statutory services and be more flexible in terms of opening hours to the public and overall modernise and simplify the services that it offers.

One of the biggest changes will be the introduction of electronic mortgages. Initially this will be where there is no change of ownership, for example when the registered proprietor simply wants to take out a mortgage or re-mortgage their property.

Sellers warned to avoid pricing their home out of the market

House sellers are being warned of the risks of punchy pricing, as figures show a "surprisingly modest" increase in the price tags of homes coming to market in February.

Across England and Wales, asking prices increased by two per cent month-on-month in February – the smallest uplift seen for this time of year since February 2009 – property website Rightmove said.

Rightmove said the slower pace of price growth means homes priced too ambitiously by sellers are at a bigger risk of standing out as poorer value and putting buyers off.

In a market where prices are rising quickly, a property being over-priced is less noticeable as the price tags on other homes will catch up with it before too long.

Reluctant

Three-quarters (75 per cent) of estate agents surveyed by Rightmove reported their local market as being "price sensitive", with buyers reluctant to make enquiries if a property is priced too highly by more than a few per cent.

Despite being relatively small compared with previous years, the latest asking price increase is still a £5,986 jump compared with January, making the typical price tag on a home in February £306,231.

Rightmove said that despite the "surprisingly modest two per cent" increase, demand for homes remains strong. The website recorded over 131 million visits in January, three million higher than a year earlier and a record high for this time of year.

Miles Shipside, director of Rightmove, said that at a time when the pace of inflation is picking up and the price of



goods generally is rising at a faster rate, the increase in property prices is slowing.

He said: "Perhaps we're approaching the territory where many buyers are unable or unwilling to pay what sellers are asking, given the negative combination of rises in the cost of living, tighter lending criteria, and a dose of Brexit uncertainty."

Asking prices are 2.3 per cent higher than a year ago – the lowest annual rate of increase since April 2013 – a time when the typical price tag on a home was nearly £60,000 lower than now.

Mr Shipside continued: "With the annual rate of price increase now at 2.3 per cent, a property that is over-priced by more than five per cent will have to wait more than two years for the market to catch up with it."

Some house sellers may plan to start with an ambitious price tag, thinking they can slash it later if they get little interest.

But Mr Shipside said Rightmove's tracking data has found that homes need to substantially out-perform the level of interest in similar properties in the same area during the first three weeks of going on the market to minimise the risk of

being left on the shelf. He said: "Over-pricing loses you that vital initial interest and impetus, and buyers often have reservations about a property that has not sold as quickly as others or has had a price reduction."

Looking around the country, no region saw a month-on-month fall in asking prices in February. Wales saw the biggest jump, with an 8.1 per cent month-on-month increase taking the average asking price to £177,556 – up £13,265 on January. Regions where prices are already relatively high saw smaller monthly increases in asking prices than some less expensive areas.

Renovation and decoration 'boosting house value'

The vast majority of home owners in the UK think their house value has increased since they bought it by an average of £33,125, new research has found.

Overall some 91 per cent believe the price of their home has gone up and the research found that they think that renovations and decoration has led to an average £14,900 increase in the property's value.

The research from Co-op Insurance also found that 31per cent of homeowners bought their property with their eye firmly on how much money they could make from their investment.

Of these, a reliance on house prices increasing generally was the outcome that 62 per cent of home owners were hoping would happen.

Location

Location was also a key deciding factor with 34 per cent buying in an already desirable area whilst 32 per cent of people did their research and sought out properties in areas classed as 'up and coming'. Whilst 29 per cent bought a home in clear need of renovation.

Changing rooms is a common theme, with 76 per cent of home owners in the UK making changes to their property since they moved in.

Of these, 60 per cent believe the renovation works they've completed has led to an increase in value.

On average, the renovation and decorative work that home owners have invested in came to £18,224. This means that, on average, home owners are seeing a £14,900 profit as a result of these works.



Kitchen is king when it comes to the rooms home owners should renovate if they are looking to entice new buyers, with 56 per cent believing it is this room that really sells a home.

For a quarter of buyers, the living room is the second most desirable selling feature of a home. Bathrooms, whilst third on the list when it comes to saleability, are only important to four per cent of home buyers according to the research.

Some 76 per cent of home owners have made changes to their homes since they bought them with

décor being the most popular choice with 73 per cent opting to improve their home's decoration while 67 per cent want to get a new kitchen and 65 per cent a new bathroom.

"Our study shows that home owners believe by investing in décor and bigger renovation works they are adding value to their homes for future years," said Caroline Hunter, head of Home Insurance at Co-op.

"Kitchens have long been lauded as the heart of the home and our study continues to solidify this, with over half of home owners believing that this is the room of the house that could make, or break, a sale," she pointed out.

"Whilst they are a big draw for prospective buyers, they can be expensive, therefore it's important to revisit your home insurance policy to ensure you have the right level of cover in place during the building works, to protect you from additional risks during the work.

"Don't assume your builder will have insurance in place that covers you in every eventuality," she added.

However, a separate piece of research has found that one in five have made a change to their home they later regretted and 29 per cent are too scared to change something in their home in case they make the wrong decision.

And more than one in 10 have regretted a disastrous design decision so much that they have spent more money making further changes to cover-up their mistake, according to the research from DigitalBridge.

Letters tell of relationship between lord and Jackie



Secret love letters were discovered in a box locked for decades and are now up for auction

SHE was the widow of John F Kennedy, he was an English lord who lived in the Shropshire countryside.

And now secret love letters between Jackie Kennedy and the fifth Lord Harlech have been discovered in a box that had been locked for decades. The poignant letters are to be sold at auction as part of the sale of the Harlech family's extensive collection of antiques and artwork. The large bundle of fragile letters, still in their envelopes, were found in a locked, red wooden box.

Auctioneers Bonhams has described the collection as "one of the finest held in pri-

vate hands" it has seen for a long time. David Ormsby Gore, the fifth Baron Harlech whose family home was on the edge of Oswestry, asked the widow of the American president to marry him. But she chose instead to marry shipping tycoon Aristotle Onassis, breaking the Shropshire Lord's heart.

The two families had been good friends in the late 1950s and 1960s with the Kennedys making a secret visit to Shropshire to stay with Lord Harlech and his wife, Sylvia. They shocked the Oswestry community when they left the Brogyntyn estate on the Sunday morning to attend mass at the town's Catho-

lic Church and then enjoy a walk in the town centre.

Lord Harlech had been a Shropshire MP but soon after JFK was made president he stood down to become British ambassador to America.

After JFK's assassination in Dallas in November 1963, Jackie Kennedy wrote to Lord Harlech sending him one of her husband's books from his library, a book of Shelley's poems.

But it was only after the death of Lady Harlech in a car crash in 1967, that Lord Harlech expressed his love for Jackie Kennedy.



Jackie Onassis and Senator Edward Kennedy attended Lord Harlech's funeral

She had flown to Britain for Lady Harlech's funeral. In 1968 he proposed to her but she declined saying her future had to be with someone who was not part of her past world and pain.

The letters that will be sold at auction reveal that Lord Harlech was devastated when she instead married Onassis.

On Lord Harlech's death in 1985, following a car crash on the A5 at Montford Bridge, Jackie attended his funeral in Oswestry, along with John Kennedy's younger brother Teddy.

The items will go under the hammer at Bonhams in London on March 29.

Car parking the focus of Business Club

CALLS have been made for changes to Oswestry's car parking system.

The issue featured heavily at the latest meeting of the Oswestry Chronicle's Business Club, held at The Townhouse on Wednesday last week.

Guests were Mayor Paul Milner and Deputy Mayor Vince Hunt who took part in a question and answer session with Chronicle associate editor Iain St John.

The mayor reiterated his support for business in Oswestry and said one of the biggest issues businesses raised with him is the state of Cross Street which has a number of large empty retail units.

He said car parking was also an issue which people mentioned to him.

During the Business Club, experienced Oswestry businessman Yossi Glikman, who runs Upstairs Downstairs specialist cookshop, suggested the town's Central Car Park should install a pay on exit system rather than the current pay on display system.

He said shoppers often cut their shopping short because they were worried they would overstay their parking ticket and be fined.

Oswestry Town Clerk David Preston also attended the Business Club and said the council was keen to hear views from businesses and from the chamber about the parking system. Councillor Vince Hunt, who, election permitting, is set to be Oswestry's next mayor also reiterated the council was keen to work with businesses. After the meeting Oswestry Chamber of Commerce chairman Neil Jenkins said: "I agree with a lot of what Yossi said about parking."

"What I would really hope would be to see the changes take place in a couple of months, we need to act on this."

Inquest told of road crash

A HUSBAND died after the car his wife was driving strayed into the opposite lane and hit another vehicle.

John Leslie, 75, was travelling to his holiday cottage in North Wales with his wife, Jane, when they were involved in a head-on collision on the A5 near Oswestry. At an inquest, Shropshire coroner John Ellery heard that the collision had taken place at about 7.20am on October 9.

Mr and Mrs Leslie had been near The Queen's Head on the A5, travelling towards North Wales when for an unexplained reason their blue Subaru Legacy crossed into the oncoming lane.

As it did, it hit a silver Volkswagen Jetta driven by Colin Williams.

Mr Ellery said no blame for the crash could be apportioned to Mr Williams.

The inquest was told Mr Leslie, who was from Hillcroft Crescent, Watford, had been taken to Royal Stoke University Hospital for treatment but had died on October 25 as a result of multiple injuries.

The coroner said that a police investigation had been carried out but that Mrs Leslie had no recollection of the accident and could not say why the car had crossed into oncoming traffic. A conclusion of death by road traffic accident was recorded.

Expert advice at flower show

ORGANISERS of the Shrewsbury Flower Show have announced that at this year's event, to be held on August 11 and 12, two horticulturalists, Joe Swift and Penny Meadmore, will be on hand to answer gardening queries visitors have.

Joe Swift has been gardening since he left school and is a fully trained garden designer. He has been one of the main presenters on BBC2's flagship gardening show 'Gardeners World' since 1998 and also regularly appears in the BBC's coverage of RHS Chelsea, Hampton Court, Gardeners World Live and Tatton Park Flower shows.

Penny Meadmore is a Royal Horticultural Society award winning garden designer with a degree (BSc Hons) in botany. As a BBC Radio Lincolnshire garden expert, Penny broadcasts from the Chelsea Flower Show and is a regular on their weekly Gardeners' Question Time. For more information and tickets visit www.shrewsburyflowershow.org.uk or call 01743 234050.

Young performers hit the right notes at music festival



Gobowen Primary School was one of many schools which took part in this year's Oswestry Youth Music Festival at various venues in the town



Youngsters from Gobowen Primary School sang at Oswestry Youth Music Festival at Holy Trinity Church

Report by Naomi Penrose

THE 40th anniversary of Oswestry's annual youth music festival was a showcase of "phenomenal musical talent", its chairman has said.

Councillor Cynthia Hawksley praised the talents of the hundreds of young musicians who performed at the popular four-day event.

The past, present and future musical talent of the town and surrounding areas came together to perform, with the first ever winner of the event Haydn Jones from Oswestry performing, along with other winners from over the years.

On the other end of the age spectrum, five-year-old Sam Edwards, who attends Bellan House in Oswestry, performed at the festival.

He was the weekend's youngest participant.

Councillor Hawksley said: "What a truly wonderful weekend and this year felt that extra bit special with it being the 40th anniversary of the event."

"The event was a real success, with such a fantastic array of talent and to quote those coming out of the concert on Saturday night, what phenomenal musical talent these young people have."

This year Ruby Howells, who attends Newport Girls High School and plays the flute, was the junior champion.

Vocalist Oliver Ashley won the senior cup.

He is a former pupil of the Thomas Adams School in Wem and will soon be attending Cardiff's School of Music.

The festival was first held in 1977 as a one-off event to celebrate the Queen's Silver Jubilee.



Holy Trinity Church hosted some of the performances



Pupils from Bellan House School sang at Oswestry Youth Music Festival

Charity looks for more volunteers

AGE UK Shropshire Telford and Wrekin is seeking sociable volunteer helpers for its Oswestry and St Martins day centres.

Heather Osborne, chief executive of Age UK STW, said: "The rural idyll can hide real loneliness, and our day centres are often a lifeline for isolated older people living in our region".

Age UK Shropshire Telford & Wrekin has 40 day centres open weekly around the county.

They provide a weekly day out with transport and a hot meal, and social activities for older people who are on their own. Volunteers welcome members, engage in conversation, serve refreshments, and help with social activities.

The charity is looking for someone who is happy to spare a few hours for a day a week or a fortnight in its Oswestry, Monkmoor Court day centre or its St Martins day centre.

People should call Age UK's volunteer recruitment service on (01743) 588570 for further information and an application pack.

Paint workshops staged at gallery

TWO series of painting workshops will be held in Oswestry over the next three months to help budding artists improve their techniques.

The Willow Gallery in Oswestry will host Darren Fraser's class in black and white painting.

The first class was held last week and further sessions will be held on Tuesday next week as well as March 21 and March 23. They run from 10am to 2pm. The course will cost £120.

Leo Donaghy will teach loose oil painting in the second course, on April 5, 12, 19 and 26 from 9.30am to 1.30pm each day, at a cost of £85.

For full details including information about what materials people may need to bring, or to book a place, contact the gallery on (01691) 657575.

Club members are told of £60m water project

Report by Sue Austin

A NEAR £60-million new water filtration scheme, taking shape off Broomhall Lane in Oswestry, will supply a million Liverpool consumers with crystal clear drinking water.

But when the water flows out of the Llanforda plant this summer under gravity, it will also spin turbines that not only provides enough electricity to run the plant but produce an excess to supply to the National Grid.

And members of Oswestry 41 Club – who had invited United Utilities' head of clean water Graham Callanan to talk to them at Sweeney Hall Hotel – heard the heartbeat of Liverpool's water supply would drag the Oswestry plant into the 21st century.

Just 15 miles from Lake Vyrnwy – which was built in the 19th century – the new Oswestry filtration unit will replace the antiquated 23 slow sand beds and vastly increase output, before sending the water on the rest of its 60-mile run to Merseyside.

By today's prices, creating the artificial lake at Llanwdwyn cost £60m, the same as the 2017 filtration plant will cost.

But Oswestrians will not get any of this super-clean drinking water, although there are tap-off points along the ongoing route, but will be employing Oswestrians to man the plant round the clock.

"This is a flagship scheme for United Utilities, modernising one of our most important treatment works in the north west", Mr Callanan told members.

He said Oswestry was a really special project and added: "We're re-designing a plant built by the engineers of yesteryear for our customers well into the next century."

He was thanked for his talk by 41 Club former engineer member Dave Mathews.

Scheme recognises compassion



Bev Tabernacle, centre, launches the scheme with staff nurses Pip Page-Davies and Paul Baker

STAFF and patients at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital are being given the chance to say a special thank you to individuals who display compassion.

The hospital is one of the latest organisations to sign up to the Leading with Compassion recognition scheme. The scheme, which was first established in September 2015, was set

up to recognise compassionate leadership and now takes in hospitals across Shropshire and Staffordshire.

It is open to staff and patients – though the majority of nominations in other organisations have come from colleagues nominating other colleagues

Bev Tabernacle, director of nursing at the hospital, said: "I am delighted that we have signed up to be

New fund will support tradition of Welsh music

WALES is known as a nation of singers – from Tom Jones and The Fron Choir, to the Llangollen International Eisteddfod.

And now Welsh Education Secretary Kirsty Williams has got together with Ken Skates, economy secretary, who represents Chirk, to announce a £1 million fund to establish a National Endowment for Music.

The scheme will be used to fund additional music activities for young people across the country.

Mrs Williams said: "The initial contribution of £1m will be provided to the Arts Council of Wales, to cover the set-up costs of the endowment with a further contribution to be made to the seed fund once it is in place. The National Endowment for Music will help ensure that all our young people, from whatever background, can develop their talents and skills through music."

"During my time as Cabinet Secretary, visiting schools across the country, I continue to be impressed and inspired by the musical talent of our young people and the schools that promote such opportunities."

"I want to build on this success and extend these opportunities throughout Wales."

"Having experiences outside the classroom is a sure way to help children build confidence and discover what inspires them."

"In time, this endowment will provide extra chances for young people to access important education experiences."

Mr Skates added: "If you were to ask people around the world to name things they associate with Wales, their list would undoubtedly involve music."

"From our traditional choirs to musicians who perform across the globe, Wales punches well above its weight. We need to make sure the next generation can carry on this great tradi-

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Town crier Martin is the inspiration for art day



Shrewsbury town crier Martin Wood and his jacket were the theme of the art day

MORE than 60 pupils from schools in North Shropshire took part in an art day – which was themed around Shrewsbury’s town crier Martin Wood.

Mr Wood, who is the world’s tallest town crier, arrived at Moreton First near Oswestry ringing his bell and declaring the commencement of the creative day.

Each year a short project is invented which

the visiting pupils complete over the course of the day and can take home with them.

Themes over the past few years have included fish, circus and a Greek day.

This year’s theme was based on Mr Wood’s bright red and ornately decorated ceremonial jacket.

Melissa Evans, school spokeswoman, said: “The event began with Martin explaining how

his role now differs from his predecessors, who would have needed to conduct executions, read out the news and taste the ale from the 560 pubs in Shrewsbury.

“The session then began with some drawing from observation, which was a challenge for some children, but with the reformed GCSE Art syllabus dedicating 25 per cent of total grade to drawing, it is important to develop

these skills. The students drew antique military brass buttons on a large scale and then used mixed media and three types of printing to add colour, texture and pattern to create close-ups of the jacket, badges and braiding.”

And she added: “The event was kindly sponsored by our local supplier, WMS, who provided all the materials for the day and something to take home.”



Advice on artwork was delivered to youngsters at the arts day

Busy time for college in town as students work hard



The students are given a talk during their visit to Shrewsbury Prison



Access to HE students and staff members celebrate their success at North Shropshire College

Report by Naomi Penrose

STUDENTS from Oswestry's North Shropshire College enjoyed a taste of prison life as part of their studies.

Students on the travel and tourism course went to Shrewsbury Prison in order to find out more about the type of events that are held there.

The trip included a guided tour of the prison, an insight into the events which were taking place and a talk with the owner of the prison.

The students found out about a range of activities such as the lock-in events where groups of people have to solve puzzles in a set time frame in order to get out of the locked prison cell they are in and zombie walk events where live actors are involved in a scary tour of the prison. The students used this information to complete an assignment set by the course tutors.

An awards event was held in Scholars Restaurant at the college to celebrate the successful completion of the January intake of Access to HE Health students. The group has had a very successful year with all students expecting to progress to their chosen degree course in nursing, social work and midwifery.

Students have completed modules in health studies, psychology, sociology and biology. Lianne Manuel, a completing student said that the course had given her a real insight into study after a long break from education.

She said: “I have made many friends and have gained a lot of self-belief”.

Meanwhile the college is increasing its apprenticeships to help fill a growing skills gap.

Students learning construction skills have been busy with their studies



Dale Evans and Kevin Hereward on a bricklaying course



Apprentice Liam Fenton working on his plumbing skills at North Shropshire College

Drug dealer walked into police station

A DRUG dealer was caught red handed when he visited a police station for help because he had missed his train home.

The hapless 17-year-old decided to visit Oswestry Police Station for advice when he found himself stranded. But police became suspicious of his behaviour and ordered him to turn out his pockets.

The search produced around £1,800 worth of crack cocaine and heroin.

The boy, who cannot be named for legal reasons, appeared at Shrewsbury Crown Court. The court heard the discovery of the drugs happened in October last year, when the teenager travelled from his home in the West Midlands into Shropshire. Hugh O'Brien Quinn, prosecuting, said the defendant had travelled to Gobowen from Wolverhampton. He told the court that the man he had been expected to meet had not turned up and he had tried to get home.

He said: “He had travelled by train on October 18 last year and at about 11.30pm went into Oswestry Police Station. He was explaining to officers he had missed the last train and he needed to get back to Wolverhampton. When checks were done on him police became aware he had previous dealings with drugs. He was then asked if he had any drugs on him and he produced four small wraps of cocaine from his jacket pocket.”

The teenager was arrested and police decided to search a bag he was carrying. They found 84 wraps of crack cocaine and 95 wraps of heroin.

He solicitor, Delroy Henry, said; “To walk into a police station with drugs and to think he would not be searched is frankly breathtaking.”

Judge Jim Tindal sentenced the 17-year-old to eight months custody.

Workforce call by chef boss

THE president of the organisation representing chefs in Wales has called on everyone in the catering and hospitality industry to work in partnership to deliver a sustainable future workforce.

Arwyn Watkins, from the Culinary Association of Wales (CAW) who is also managing director of award winning training provider Cambrian Training Company, made the call at the Welsh International Culinary Championships (WICC) award dinner.

Four days of intense competitions and mouthwatering cooking by some of the best chefs in Europe contributed to another hugely successful WICC at Coleg Llandrillo, Rhos-on-Sea.

“This week has really demonstrated what is possible when you work in partnership with like-minded professionals,” said Mr Watkins, who thanked association members, Coleg Llandrillo staff, sponsors, competitors and judges for their support. “This is an industry that is very important to the future of the Welsh economy. We need to continue to work with like-minded partners in Wales to ensure that we can increase the uptake of new entrants into our industry and retain them. We have to work with employers to share best practice on work life balances and the changing dynamics and expectations of the workforce.”

Thanks given for refugee help

THE Government has thanked Shropshire Council for its role in supporting the resettlement of Syrian refugees in the UK.

It follows the publication of Government figures which show that the UK has resettled over 5,500 Syrian refugees under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement scheme putting it on track to meet its commitment of resettling 20,000 by 2020. Shropshire resettled 54 Syrian refugees under the scheme since with some families coming to the Oswestry area. Immigration Minister Robert Goodwill said: “The support of Shropshire and other local authorities has been paramount in helping us resettle so many vulnerable people who have fled conflict. The humanitarian crisis in Syria is unprecedented which is why we decided to undertake one of the largest resettlement schemes in the UK’s history.”

The scheme is voluntary and so far more than 200 local authorities have housed refugees.



The busy Shotatton road junction on the A5 poses safety problems



John Hayes and Owen Paterson meet campaigners in Llanymynech and Pant



John Hayes and North Shropshire MP Owen Paterson at the talks

Road plea is made



Councillor Joyce Barrow makes a point



Roads minister John Hayes attended a meeting at Oswestry Rugby Club during his visit to the region to discuss the A5



Emergency services representatives at the talks



Councillors met the roads minister during the talks



Shropshire Council Leader Malcolm Pate attended the talks

POOR roads are putting lives at risk and harming Shropshire's economy, a government minister was told.

A delegation of politicians, business leaders and police told John Hayes the A5 needed to be turned into a dual carriageway.

Shropshire Council chief executive Clive Wright told Mr Hayes congestion and safety concerns about the A5 was stifling growth in the economy.

The roads minister climbed onto a tractor to see for himself the dangers of the single carriageway section of the A5 between Shrewsbury and Oswestry.

He experienced how motorists and commercial drivers feel trying to cross the Shotatton crossroads on the trunk road near Oswestry as he was driven across the traffic.

During his visit to Shropshire on Thursday last week he then joined members of the busi-

Report by Sue Austin

ness community, residents and local authority and emergency service representatives at two meetings just off the A5 and A483.

As well as calls for A5 improvements, residents in Pant and Llanymynech want a bypass for the A483.

Mr Wright said: "It is easy to attract businesses to the area around or just off the M54 because of the good road network."

"But the further north you travel the harder it is to get business interested in locating in Shropshire and that more than anything is because of the transport links."

Mr Hayes said he would be commissioning a study into how the change from dual to single carriageway and different road widths affected accident statistics.

Chief Superintendent Charles Hill said frustrated drivers took chances while overtaking on wider parts of the single carriageway road, often leading to crashes.

He told the minister: "They gamble and sometimes it does not pay off."

Mr Hayes said rarely did he get the chance to speak to such a variety of people all campaigning for road improvements.

"The government is determined to improve the roads system to benefit well being and safety and help the economy," he said.

"We are working on a new roads programme for 2020 and beyond and so this could not be a better time for you to press for improvements."

North Shropshire MP Owen Paterson said the accident statistics for the A5 since 1991 were appalling, with 58 tragic deaths, 320 serious and 1,407 slight accidents.

George Candler, business director for Shropshire Council, said the percentage of HGVs using the A5 north of Shrewsbury to Chirk was almost double the national average at 10 per cent.

"This reflects the road's classifications as a Trans-European Highway," he said.

"The dualling of the A5 and a bypass for the

A483 at Pant and Llanymynech would help the business economy, the tourism and wider visitor economy and would attract inward investment leading to more jobs and more housing."

Several county councillors at the meetings told the minister of the chaos caused when the A5 or A483 had to be shut because of an accident. Councillor Steve Charmley said traffic had to divert through villages that did not have the roads to take it, particularly the heavy goods vehicles, while Councillor Nick Bardsley said that drivers often tried to find an alternative road on narrow lanes only to get stuck themselves. Several business representatives told of their problems.

Coach and holiday operator Mike Owen of Owen's Travelmaster said the road infrastructure affected his workforce of almost 50.

"Many do not have to travel long distances to work but the journey can take up to 45 minutes because of the traffic," he said.

"We desperately need road improvements," Richard Powell from the Park Hall Country-

side Attraction said tourism was vital to the area.

"We need to cut the travel time down to Shropshire from places like Birmingham and Manchester and dualling the A5 would do that."

Leaders of the agricultural industry were also at the meetings.

Farmer and parish councillor, Simon Gittins said there were many junctions that criss crossed the A5, Shotatton crossroads being just one.

Leader of Shropshire Council, Malcolm Pate said the improvement of the route was absolutely critical to the future of the county.

Oswestry Mayor Paul Milner said that as well as having to attend accidents on the A5 the high volume of traffic meant that the emergency services often took longer to respond to general emergency call outs. "It takes longer for ambulances to get to the Royal Shrewsbury and Princess Royal Hospitals than if the road was a dual carriageway," he said.

Osprey project volunteers ready the nest for guests



Volunteers prepare a platform nest in readiness for the birds' return

VOLUNTEERS with a head for heights at the popular Dyfi Osprey Project in Mid Wales have been preparing a 200-foot-high platform nest in readiness for the birds' return from their migration in Africa.

Monty, an osprey which became a household name among wildlife watchers when he appeared on the BBC's Springwatch programme, left the reserve at Dyfi Junction near Machyn-

lleth on September 1 last year. Monty usually arrives in the first week of April and stays in Mid Wales until the first week in September every year.

Last year he spent 153 days at the reserve, where he spent his days swooping majestically over the Dyfi estuary – that's 42 per cent of his year.

But 2016 was not one of Monty's more pro-



Thousands watch the birds and their antics in Mid Wales each year

ductive years. Not since 2012 has he managed to sire just the one youngster to migration age, but this was not his fault. Another nesting female in his territory, an unhatched egg and a fatal accident to his daughter who fell from the perch, meant that Tegid was the sole offspring in 2016. Ceri, an eight-week-old female chick, fell from her larch perch at the centre three days before she died. Parents Monty and Glesni

had been building the chicks up with fresh fish plucked from the River Dyfi since they hatched. Ceri hatched on May 24 at 9.54pm and Tegid hatched on May 29 at 8.26am. Thousands of people from across the world annually log on to the centre's website and Facebook page to watch the arrival of the birds in the spring, mating, egg laying and hatching of the young ospreys

MP delighted with decision on language

GLYN Davies, Conservative MP for Montgomeryshire, has welcomed the announcement that MPs will be able to make speeches in the House of Commons in Welsh.

The decision means that in future, MPs will have the option of speaking in Welsh or English in meetings of the Welsh Grand Committee.

Mr Davies said: "The announcement that I will be able to make my speech in the Welsh language at the next Welsh Grand Committee warrants joyful celebration."

"Yet again a significant move forward for the Welsh language has been taken by a Conservative Government. We created S4C, passed the Welsh Education Act in the early 1990s that is widely acknowledged to have stopped the decline in the Welsh language, and we established a Welsh Language Board which established a legal framework to protect the Welsh language."

"The Welsh language is at the heart of our nation, it's at the heart of our culture, and it's at the heart of my politics. It's will be an emotional experience to speak Welsh in the House of Commons as a Welsh Conservative MP."

"For those of us who love our Welsh language, allowing MPs to use it in debate at the Welsh Grand Committee is a significant statement about the importance of the Welsh language to Wales. It's a foundation stone on which the culture of Wales is built."

"It's a public statement about commitment to the Welsh language. I cannot wait for the opportunity to be called to speak at the Palace of Westminster, and be allowed to speak in the language I've worked so hard to learn."

Students enjoy success inside and outside of the classroom



Millie Kiel, Francesca Lisle, Matthew Dennison, Phoebe Jackson and Harriet Lang celebrate the Oxbridge success



Pupils from Bellan House in Oswestry were victorious in a netball tournament at The Marches School

Report by Naomi Penrose

STUDENTS have enjoyed success both inside and outside of the classroom in recent weeks.

The dreaming spires have become a reality for four girls from Moreton Hall School near Oswestry with the news of their successful applications to Oxford and Cambridge.

This marks the end of a long application journey and reflects Moreton's most successful Oxbridge year this millennium.

Supported by Moreton Hall's head of Oxbridge enrichment, Matthew Dennison and a dedicated team of subject teachers, the girls went through a rigorous process of college exams and interviews.

Principal Jonathan Forster said: "We are delighted for the girls on their exceptional achievements."

"Their hard work and passion for their subjects have been recognised. As the UK's number one non-selective school, it's wonderful to see some of our brightest girls destined for the UK's top universities."

Meanwhile, embracing the British Schoolgirls Races 2017 with aplomb, four talented skiers from Moreton Hall were crowned winners. This large scale event attracts competitive skiers from all over the UK and over 150 pupils made the journey to Flaine, France, in order to compete. The Moreton team of Alysha Brown, Charlotte Brown, Freya Reeves and Georgie Reeves returned to Shropshire victorious, with eight medals in tow and a new title to their name – the best overall team.

Meanwhile, seven pupils from Bellan House, Oswestry School's Prep Department, have won the primary schools 5 and 6 High Five netball championships.

The tournament was held at The Marches School.



The Moreton Hall skiers competed in France



The Moreton Hall ski team celebrates their great success

Free seminar for businesses

A FREE employment law seminar is taking place in Oswestry for businesses to keep up-to-date on the latest developments.

The event is being held by Lanyon Bowdler Solicitors and will also include the option of a short one-to-one consultation with an employment lawyer. John Merry, head of employment at Lanyon Bowdler, said the seminar would be extremely useful to business owners, senior managers and in-house HR teams.

The seminar will take place at Oswestry Townhouse on March 30 from 12.30pm to 2.15pm. To book a place, visit www.eventbrite.co.uk and search "Employment Law Update - Spring 2017".

Meanwhile, the challenges of keeping a farm in the family will be discussed at a free event being held in Oswestry.

The event is being organised by Lanyon Bowdler Solicitors, along with Halls Chartered Surveyors, Baldwins Accountants and Handelsbanken.

It will be held at The Wynnstay Hotel, Oswestry, on March 23 from 6pm to 8pm, with a light buffet being served following the discussions.

Places are free but booking is advisable as they are on a first-come-first-served basis. To book a place, email amanda.jones@lblaw.co.uk or call Lanyon Bowdler on (01743) 280282.

Talk on botanists for garden club

NEXT Thursday's meeting of Trefonen Garden Club will welcome Mark Duffell who was due to speak last year but unfortunately could not make it.

He will be talking about the Victorian botanists who searched the world for plants and in particular Charles Darwin.

Organisers say the talk promises an exploration of the many botanical discoveries made by Darwin and his contemporaries, and visitors will find out about the weird and wonderful world of plants whilst journeying through the tropics, arid deserts and mountainous regions.

Mr Duffell is an experienced botanist and horticulturist and undertakes botanical surveys mainly in Shropshire and neighbouring counties. He works for a number of organisations including the Field Studies Council and numerous local natural history societies and Wildlife Trusts.

For more details visit www.trefonen-gardenclub.org.uk or call Barbara Court on (01691) 655387.

Cinema listings

JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 2 (15)



Burnt out – 6/10
Having exacted his revenge at the end of the first film, John Wick (Keanu Reeves) reclaims his beloved Mustang and heads home to enjoy his retirement from the killing game. Out of the blue, scheming Italian crime lord Santino D'Antonio (Riccardo Scamarcio) visits John and implores him to assassinate his sister Gianna (Claudia Gerini). John is obliged to carry out the hit in Rome.

THE FOUNDER (12A)



Food for thought – 7/10
Ray Kroc (Michael Keaton) is a salesman who neglects his wife Ethel (Laura Dern) to travel around the country selling milkshake machines. During a visit to San Bernardino in California, Ray takes a tour of the hamburger stand owned by Richard McDonald (Nick Offerman) and his brother Maurice (John Carroll Lynch), scenting a lucrative opportunity.

THE GREAT WALL (12A)



Monster mash – 6/10
Every 60 years, hordes of flesh-hungry monsters called Taoties rise in search of prey and a secret military sect called the Nameless Order repels them from atop the wall. Two mercenaries, William (Matt Damon) and Tovar (Pedro Pascal), stumble into the middle of this conflict and pledge their support. Another, Sir Ballard (Willem Dafoe), is already aiding and helps them acclimatise.

FENCES (12A)



Well-built – 8/10
Strong-willed patriarch Troy Maxson (Denzel Washington) presides over this tug-of-war for supremacy. Troy toils in order to provide for his wife Rose (Viola Davis) and their son Cory (Jovan Adepo). The young man is a gifted athlete and is being scouted for college football. Troy refuses to sign his son's permission slip and this drives a wedge between the two.

THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE (U)



Awesome sequel – 8/10
Batman wallows in loneliness at Wayne Manor. Commissioner James Gordon (Hector Elizondo) hands over control to his daughter, Barbara (Rosario Dawson), who calls into question the effectiveness of Batman when all of his nemeses including The Joker (Zach Galifianakis) and Harley Quinn (Jenny Slate) remain at large. Despite the stinging criticism, Batman is smitten.

THE SPACE BETWEEN US (PG)



Space race – 6/10
Charismatic billionaire Nathaniel Shepherd (Gary Oldman) is determined to establish a colony on Mars called East Texas. This expedition to the red planet is led by astronaut Sarah Elliot (Janet Montgomery), who discovers during the mission she is pregnant. She dies during childbirth and her son, Gardner (Asa Butterfield), is raised by the scientists at East Texas.



Drug dealer Juan (Mahershala Ali) tries to help Chiron (Alex Hibbert) grow up



Bond star Naomi Harris shines as a drug addict

Heart-rending drama

Review by Damon Smith

BASED on the stage play In Moonlight Black Boys Look Blue by Tarell Alvin McCraney, writer-director Barry Jenkins' tender coming-of-age drama finds hope, compassion and salvation in the darkest places.

Moonlight glimpses abuse, regret and desire from the perspective of an African American boy struggling to come to terms with his sexuality against a backdrop of crime and punishment in Miami, Florida.

Neatly bookmarked into three chapters which capture the central character at different points in his life, it is an extraordinary film of naked emotion, broken dreams and deep longing that upends stereotypes and speaks loudest in agonising silences between tortured characters.

Cinematographer James Laxton's bold choices – saturated colours, stark lighting – are echoed in the use of subtly different film stocks for each chapter.

These choices are subtle, but demonstrate meticulous thought behind even the most simple shot of two characters in deep discussion, wrestling with demons of their shared past.

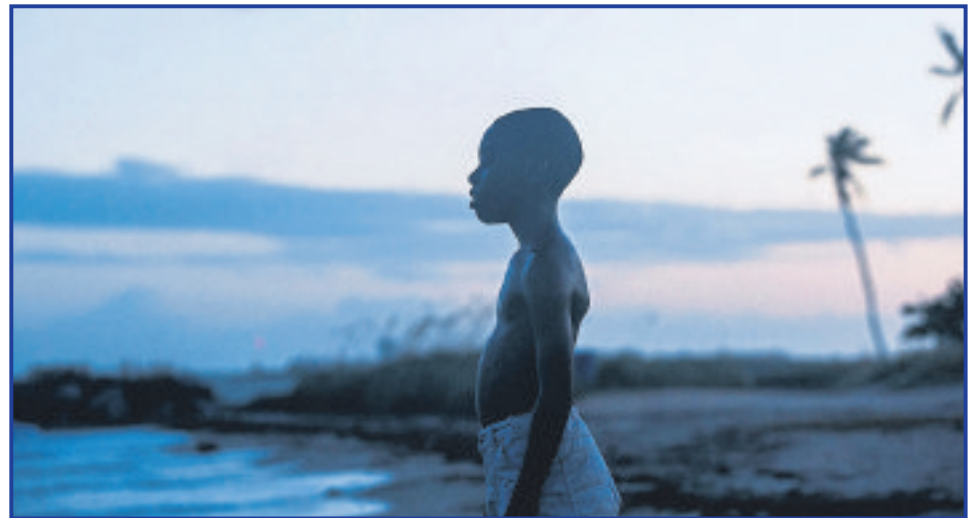
Naomie Harris scorches every frame as a drug-addicted mother, whose lip-curling

cruelty propels her wounded son into the surrogate care of her own dealer.

Scenes of her taking money from her boy to feed her habit wrench at the heart, nicely offset by later scenes when she acknowledges the damage she has wrought.

"You ain't gotta love me," she tearfully tells her boy, "Lord knows, I didn't have love for you when you needed it."

Twelve-year-old Chiron (Alex Hibbert) is



The creation of this coming-of-age drama is beautiful with saturated colours and dark lighting and the acting magnificent

one of the smallest boys in his year and an obvious target for bullies. Any beatings pale next to the pain inflicted by mother Paula (Harris), who is a slave to her drug habit.

Her neglect drives Chiron into the arms of dealer Juan (Mahershala Ali) and his girlfriend Teresa (Janelle Monae), who try to provide a stable home environment as he contends with growing pains.

As Chiron grows into an awkward

16-year-old (now played by Ashton Sanders), the lad recognises his attraction to his best friend Kevin (Jharrel Jerome). Many years later Chiron (now played by Trevante Rhodes), drives to the diner where Kevin (now played by Andre Holland) waits tables in order to purge the poison.

"For a long time, I tried not to remember....," confesses Chiron to the only man he ever loved.

Moonlight is a wondrous collaboration between a director at the height of his powers and a cast willing to lay themselves emotionally bare for their art. Naturalistic performances from the three actors who play Chiron are exemplary, and Oscar nominees Ali and Harris age gracefully between each polished act.

Dialogue glistens with authenticity, holding us spellbound.

Book reviews

A YEAR AT THE STAR AND SIXPENCE

By Holly Hepburn
Published by Simon and Schuster



Previously published in e-book format, this story covers four seasons at a Shropshire village pub. Having inherited it as an almost derelict ruin, two sisters, Nessie and Sam, face an uphill battle to get the pub up and running again.

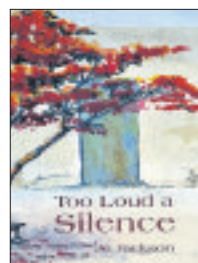
Both girls are trying making a new start in life and are determined to make the pub the heart of the village, exactly as it used to be. Just as things begin to settle down nicely, their past comes back to haunt them, making them wish they'd

never embarked on such a daunting enterprise.

A light-hearted romance peopled with entertaining characters, this is an ideal read for a long dark evening waiting for summer to arrive.
By Sally Bunn

TOO LOUD A SILENCE

By Jo Jackson
Published by Apedale Press



This is a curious and intriguing story about a child, born in Egypt but adopted by an English couple, who, as an adult, decides to return to the land of her birth to discover her origins.

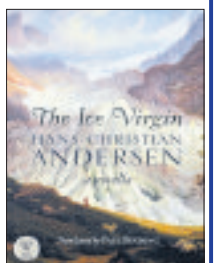
As an investigative journalist Mava is used to following trails of information, but poignant and revealing letters from her mother, sent to her while she is in Cairo, suggest that there is more to her past than she can imagine. While investigating the plight of women in a country torn

apart by territorial wars, living in refugee camps, and enduring life under martial law, Mava discovers the orphanage from which she was adopted.

Here she finds out the truth of her past.
By Leo Williams

THE ICE VIRGIN

By Hans Christian Andersen
Published by Angel Classics



Author of some of the world's best-known fairytales, Andersen also wrote a number of sophisticated longer stories, of which this novella is one.

Translated here by Paul Binding of Bishop's Castle, it is an ambitious and searching story. First written in 1861 and set in the Bernese Oberland, it tells of the romance between a daring chamois hunter and a prosperous miller's daughter.

While describing the real world of commun-

ities living within the mighty Swiss landscape we still get a glimpse of the fairytales Andersen wrote, as he describes the terrifying Ice Virgin and her minions with their hatred of mankind.

By Verity Allgood



Tony Hadley has one of the most recognisable voices of the 1980s



Rod Stewart will play in Shropshire later this year when he appears in Shrewsbury

Famous names set to entertain music fans

POP stars from the 1980s, including Billy Ocean, ABC, Tony Hadley and Shrewsbury's very own T'Pau, will headline a huge gig at the town's Quarry Park in May.

Let's Rock Shrewsbury, on May 27, will also feature Heaven 17, Nik Kershaw, The Real Thing, Altered Images, Brother Beyond and Wolverhampton songstress Jaki Graham.

The show marks a return to The Quarry of live music following the demise of Shrewsbury Fields Forever.

Tickets look set to prove popular because previous 1980s festivals – which also featured T'Pau – in Shrewsbury have been best-sellers with the fans.

Let's Rock is a retro festival which features at venues around the UK, including Leeds, Bristol, Norwich and London.

An event was held in the Black Country last year at Sandwell Valley Country Park. It brings together a package of 1980s acts and presents them on one hit-filled day.

The line-up features a number of bands who have pulled in sell-out crowds during previous visits to Shrewsbury's Theatre Severn and The Buttermarket.

Billy Ocean has dazzled fans with gigs in the town, while Nik Kershaw is a popular draw and has featured at Theatre Severn.

Tony Hadley will be one of the biggest acts on the bill.

He will be bringing some of Spandau Ballet's hits to the stage.

As the band's lead singer, Tony has Hadley has, over the years, earned the accolade of being one of pop music's great vocalists.

In addition to all the band's songs, many remember his prominent vocal contribution to the Band Aid UK charity single Do They Know It's Christmas and subsequent 1985 London appearance at Live Aid.

He also performed solo at the Nelson Mandela Concert at Wembley in June 1988.

SPECIAL REPORT

By Andy Richardson

Nik Kershaw signed with MCA Records in 1983 and released his debut album Human Racing in 1984.

It achieved multi-platinum sales and launched Nik's career worldwide.

The equally successful The Riddle followed and, in July 1985, he also took to the Wembley stage to perform at Live Aid.

Carol Decker's T'Pau will be popular with locals.

She lived in The Quarry, in a rowing house, and wrote her most famous hit China In Your Hand while in Shrewsbury.

She enjoyed hits with China In Your Hand, Valentine, Sex Talk and more.

Meanwhile, music legend Rod Stewart will also perform in Shropshire later this year.

The Maggie May singer will take to the stage at Shrewsbury Town Football Club's Greenhous Meadow stadium on June 7.

About 20,000 fans are expected to pack into the stadium for what will be one of only two mainland Britain concerts for the veteran performer this year in preparation for headlining the Isle of Wight Festival on June 11. It is the second big outdoor concert at the stadium after Elton John wowed crowds with a selection of his hits in 2011.

More than 17,000 fans crammed in to the stadium to see the Candle In The Wind performer.

Having sold more than 200 million records worldwide, Sir Rod will perform a combined set of his classics spanning five decades including I Don't Want To Talk About It and The First Cut Is The Deepest, as well as new hits in his signature style.

Brian Caldwell, chief executive of Shrewsbury Town Football Club, said the gig had been a long time in the planning.

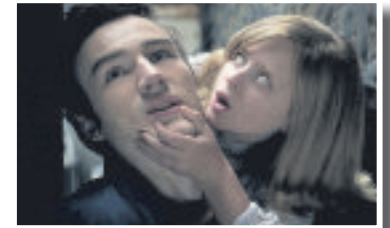
He said: "We are delighted to get another concert at the stadium. Since I came here 12 months ago, many people have said they were craving another event after the Elton John concert."



Clare Grogan from 1980s Glasgow band Altered Images will entertain fans

DVD releases

Ouija: Origin Of Evil (Cert 15)



A malevolent spirit wreaks havoc on the Zanders

STARRING: Lulu Wilson, Elizabeth Reaser, Annalise Basso, Henry Thomas
DIRECTOR: Mike Flanagan
RUNNING Time: 98 minutes

4/10

In 1967 Los Angeles, charlatan fortune teller Alice Zander (Elizabeth Reaser) conducts choreographed seances with her daughters, 15-year-old Paulina (Annalise Basso) and introspective nine-year-old Doris (Lulu Wilson).

The children perform various special effects – candles blowing out, a shrouded spectre hovering behind a curtain – to give the impression of spirits communicating with the living. The Zanders introduce the board game Ouija with its heart-shaped planchette to their act. Little Doris is desperate to make a connection to her late father, Roger (Michael Weaver), and she uses Ouija to communicate with the dead. A malevolent spirit gains control of Doris and begins to wreak havoc on the Zander household. As the girl's behaviour becomes increasingly violent, Alice and Paulina abandon their cheap tricks and dive into the spirit realm to save Doris, aided by a local priest (Henry Thomas). Ouija: Original Of Evil is a lacklustre prequel to a 2014 horror, which boasts cheap scares, creaking doors and demonically possessed protagonists whispering in tongues. Director Mike Flanagan and his design team evoke the period with elan. Younger actors have more interesting character arcs to explore, while experienced older cast members invariably end up screaming or losing pints of blood. Flanagan's film has one scene of note in which Doris verbalises in exquisite detail the sensation of being strangled to death.

Keeping Up With The Joneses (12)



Isla Fisher stars in Keeping up the Joneses

STARRING: Zach Galifianakis, Isla Fisher, Jon Hamm, Gal Gadot, Matt Walsh, Maribeth Monroe
RUNNING Time: 101 minutes

4/10

Jeff Gaffney (Zach Galifianakis) works in human resources at a company, which produces microchips and components for aerospace and military contractors.

His wife Karen (Isla Fisher) is an interior designer and they enjoy a simple life in a leafy cul-de-sac, where they exchange pleasantries with other residents including Jeff's work colleague Dan (Matt Walsh) and his wife, Meg (Maribeth Monroe).

Out of the blue, travel writer Tim Jones (Jon Hamm) and food blogger wife Natalie (Gal Gadot) move in across the street, paying cash for their home without viewing the property. "Who would buy a house without seeing it first?" wonders Karen, who becomes convinced the seemingly perfect Joneses are hiding something. The Gaffneys clumsily infiltrate their neighbour's home and discover that Tim and Natalie are government spies with gadgets galore and a licence to kill. Keeping Up With The Joneses is a witless action comedy that wheezes and puffs through various set pieces, including a bullet-riddled car chase and a frenetic shoot-out, without any obvious punchlines or pay-offs. Wit, humanity, romance and plausibility are repeatedly sacrificed in the film's lumbering pursuit of feeble laughs.

Sir Tom to take the stage at this year's Forest Live



Sir Tom Jones will perform at Forest Live

POP legend Sir Tom Jones will be performing in the Midlands as part of this year's Forest Live concert series.

The singer will be at Cannock Chase Forest in Staffordshire on July 9. He joins a line-up for the three-day event which includes Elbow, playing on July 7, and Rick Astley, playing on July 8.

Tom's show is part of the Forest Live events which are an independent programme organised by the Forestry Commission to bring forests to new audiences.

Income generated from ticket sales is spent on protecting, improving and expanding England's forests and woodlands and increasing their value to people and wildlife.

Tickets to see Sir Tom on July 9

cost £46.50, plus £5.15 booking fee, are available now from the box office 03000 680400 or online at www.forestry.gov.uk/music.

His career has spanned six decades, from his emergence as a vocalist in the mid-1960s with a string of top hits, regular touring, appearances in Las Vegas and career comebacks – to coaching on The Voice UK from 2012 to 2015, as well as 2017.

Jones's bluesy singing style developed out of the sound of American soul music. His early influences included blues and R&B singers Little Richard, Solomon Burke, Jackie Wilson and Brook Benton, as well as Elvis Presley. His road to stardom began when he became the frontman in 1963 for Tommy Scott and the Senators, a Welsh beat group. They soon gained a local following and reputation in South Wales. His performing range

has included pop, rock, R&B, show tunes, country, dance, soul and gospel.

In 2008, the New York Times called Jones a musical "shape shifter," who could "slide from soulful rasp to pop croon, with a voice as husky as it was pretty." Jones has sold over 100 million records with thirty-six Top 40 hits in the United Kingdom and nineteen in the United States, including "It's Not Unusual", "What's New Pussycat", "Delilah", "Green, Green Grass of Home", "She's a Lady", "Kiss", and "Sex Bomb".

Jones received a Grammy Award for Best New Artist in 1966, an MTV Video Music Award in 1989, and two Brit Awards: Best British Male in 2000 and the Outstanding Contribution to Music award in 2003.

Jones was awarded an OBE in 1999 and in 2006 he was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II for services to music.



Casualty
8.40pm
The Holby staff become increasingly concerned about David's manic behaviour when he impulsively buys a fancy car on the way to work, and behaves inappropriately at the pub. Concerned for his safety, a heavily pregnant Robyn takes it upon herself to intervene.



Grand Tours of the Scottish Islands
8pm
Paul Murton heads to the northernmost spur of Skye, the Trotternish Peninsula, which has a distinct identity of its own - almost as if it were an island within an island. He begins his adventure at one of the star attractions of this part of the island, the Old Man of Storr.



Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway
7pm
The popular duo's Saturday evening variety show continues, as the pair bring back Singalong Live for the first time this series, and invite the newly reunited 1990s dance-pop outfit Steps to do the honours.



Crufts 2017
7pm
Clare Balding presents live coverage from the NEC in Birmingham, where the penultimate day of Crufts is under way. Today's tentpole events include Agility and Flyball contests, and judging of the Gundog Group. 'Supervet' Professor Noel Fitzpatrick is in the studio discussing advances in canine health.



Live Boxing on 5
10.20pm
Craig Kennedy v Stephen Simmons. Paul Dempsey presents coverage of the bout for the vacant British Cruiserweight title, which takes place at Motorpoint Arena in Cardiff, Wales. Commentary is provided by Dave Farrar and Richie Woodhall.

BBC1	
6.00	Breakfast.
10.00	Saturday Kitchen Live. Donal Skehan is joined in the kitchen by chefs Paul Askew and Nigel Haworth.
11.30	Mary Berry Everyday. The food writer celebrates hearty and wholesome food. (R)
12.00	Football Focus – FA Cup on the Road. Dan Walker and guests visit one of the clubs still involved in the FA Cup.
1.00	BBC News; Weather.
1.15	Bargain Hunt. From Lewes in East Sussex.
2.15	Escape to the Country. A couple seek a Welsh retreat.
2.45	FILM: Kung Fu Panda (2008). Animated comedy, with the voice of Jack Black.
4.10	Final Score. A round-up of this afternoon's football results.
5.10	Celebrity Mastermind. With Chris Hawkins, Kate Williams, Iain Stirling and Nikki Fox. (R)
5.40	BBC News.
5.50	Midlands Today; Weather.
6.00	Pointless Celebrities. Fish, Barbara Dickson, Nick Heyward, Toyah Willcox, Heather Small, Mari Wilson, Jessica Taylor and Kelli Young take part in a music industry-themed edition of the unorthodox quiz. (R)
6.45	Let's Sing and Dance for Comic Relief. The next round of the celebrity talent contest sees the stars of Casualty and Holby City, The Chasers, James and Ola Jordan, and EastEnders' Danny-Boy Hatchard take to the stage.
8.00	Who Dares Wins. Game show in which two pairs of complete strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject.
8.40	Casualty. Robyn takes matters into her own hands as David's manic behaviour gives his colleagues cause for concern. Meanwhile, the gang prepares to throw a 60th birthday party for Duffy.
9.30	Mrs Brown's Boys. Agnes is excited about Rory and Dino's big day, until she meets their flamboyant wedding planner, while Father Damien raises concerns about the ceremony. (R)
10.00	BBC News; National Lottery Update.
10.20	Match of the Day. Highlights of the latest Premier League matches, which included Bournemouth v West Ham United at the Vitality Stadium and Hull City v Swansea City at the KCOM Stadium.
11.05	Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights. Action from the day's opening sixth-round fixtures, which were Middlesbrough v Manchester City, and Arsenal v Lincoln City.
11.35	This Country. The mockumentary continues, as Kerry's dad Martin is accused of being a "Peeping Tom", and Kurtan vies with his friend Slugs over the affections of a girl new to the village.
12.00	Line of Duty. The anti-corruption unit investigate the police shooting of a criminal. (R)
1.00	Line of Duty. (R)
2.00	Weather for the Week Ahead.
2.05	BBC News.

BBC2	
6.35	FILM: Yellow Canary (1943). Second World War thriller, starring Anna Neagle.
8.10	FILM: The Happiest Days of Your Life (1950). Comedy, starring Alastair Sim.
9.30	Coast. The Great Storm of 1703.
10.00	Natural World. The wildlife of the Highlands. (R)
11.00	Homes Under the Hammer. Properties in the Lake District and Nottingham. (R)
12.00	Two Greedy Italians: Still Hungry. The chefs visit the central Alps to explore local resourcefulness. (R)
1.00	The Little Paris Kitchen: Cooking with Rachel Khoo. The pastry chef prepares sticky chicken. (R)
1.30	FILM: The Red Shoes (1948). Powell and Pressburger's drama, starring Moira Shearer.
3.40	Gardeners' World. Tips for pruning and planting up pots for spring colour. (R)
4.10	University Challenge. The quarter-final matches continue. (R)
4.40	Only Connect. The Beekeepers take on the Korbballers in a quarter-final match. (R)
5.10	Flog It! From the Kelvingrove Museum and Art Gallery in Glasgow. (R)
6.00	Natural World. Part one of two. The work of a man who has dedicated his life to raising kangaroos in the outback and is now opening his doors to new animals, including camels, wombats and emus. (R)
7.00	Natural World. Part two of two. The new animals are proving quite a handful, and with Brigla on crutches after a run-in with Roger the kangaroo, there is not much he can do at the moment. (R)
8.00	Grand Tours of the Scottish Islands. Paul Murton heads to the northernmost spur of Skye, the Trotternish Peninsula, which has a distinct identity of its own - almost as if it were an island within an island.
8.30	Dad's Army. The bumbling platoon boosts its fighting strength by acquiring an armoured car. Classic comedy, starring Clive Dunn and Arthur Lowe. (R)
9.00	Geri's 1990s: My Drive to Freedom. Geri Horner shares her memories of the 1990s, when she first achieved international stardom as Ginger Spice, and considers some of the key political and social moments of the era.
10.00	Live at the Apollo. Glaswegian comedian Frankie Boyle takes to the stage at London's Hammersmith Apollo, and introduces rising stars Jack Carroll and Holly Walsh. (R)
10.45	FILM: LA Confidential (1997). Three cops with different agendas investigate a murder case with links to corruption in the police force. Thriller set in the 1950s, with Russell Crowe, Guy Pearce and Kevin Spacey.
12.55	Taboo. James Delaney is blackmailed into accepting a deadly mission. (R)
1.55	Taboo. (R)
2.55	FILM: Rabbit Hole (2010). Drama, with Nicole Kidman and Aaron Eckhart.
4.20	This Is BBC2. Preview of upcoming programmes.

ITV	
6.00	CITV: Bottom Knocker Street 6.10 Bottom Knocker Street 6.25 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures 6.45 Sooty 6.55 Signed Stories: Share a Story 7.00 Oddbods 7.05 Thunderbirds Are Go
7.30	Scrambled!: Scrambled! Two hours of children's fun.
7.35	Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. A dog steals Bean's teddy. (R)
7.50	Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. Cartoon about a mischievous youngster. (R)
8.10	Scrambled!: Teen Titans Go! The teenage superheroes fight to save the world.
8.30	Scrambled!: Bear Grylls Survival School. Children are taught to survive in the wild.
9.05	Scrambled!: Adventure Time. Fun for children. (R)
9.25	Alphabetical. Quiz, hosted by Jeff Stelling. (R)
10.20	All Star Family Fortunes. With Hayley Tamaddon and Aggie MacKenzie. (R)
11.05	The Voice UK. The first of the live knock-out shows. (R)
12.25	ITV News and Weather; Weather.
12.30	Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Italy v France (Kick-off 1.30pm).
3.30	Live Six Nations Rugby Union. England v Scotland (Kick-off 4.00pm).
6.30	ITV News Central; Weather.
6.45	ITV News and Weather.
7.00	Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway. The evening variety show continues, as Steps join the presenter duo for the first Singalong Live of this series, and Stephen Mulhern introduces new pop-up game In For a Penny.
8.30	The Voice UK. The remaining contestants face the third of four live knock-out rounds, as Will.i.am's roster of hopeful stars go head-to-head in a battle for survival. Presented by Emma Willis.
9.45	ITV News and Weather; Weather.
10.05	Lethal Weapon. When Riggs and Murtaugh respond to a noise complaint, they are drawn into a case involving illegal gun-runners and advanced military technology that involves Riggs personally. (R)
11.00	FILM: Rambo: First Blood Part II (1985). John Rambo returns to the jungles of Vietnam on a mission to rescue American PoWs and exact a violent revenge. Action adventure sequel, with Sylvester Stallone and Richard Crenna.
12.50	Schofield's South African Adventure. Phillip Schofield visits a game reserve and is invited to take part in a conservation project to protect the rhino population, helping tag one of the animals. Last in the series. (R)
1.25	Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
3.00	Who's Doing the Dishes? Former Britain's Got Talent stars Demi and Lagi Demetrio, AKA Stavros Flatley, step into the role of mystery hosts for week's last dinner party. (R)

Channel 4	
6.15	Mobil 1 The Grid. Including a look at the testing period ahead of the 2017 IndyCar season.
6.45	The King of Queens. (R)
7.10	The King of Queens. Doug loses his driving licence. (R)
7.40	Everybody Loves Raymond. (R)
8.05	Everybody Loves Raymond. (R)
8.30	Frasier. The brothers visit a luxury spa. (R)
9.00	Frasier. A financial analyst joins the station. (R)
9.30	The Big Bang Theory. Sheldon punishes Leonard for a past mistake. (R)
10.00	The Big Bang Theory. The group spends the Thanksgiving holiday at Mrs Wolowitz's house. (R)
10.30	The Big Bang Theory. (R)
10.55	The Simpsons. (R)
11.25	The Simpsons. Marge and Homer buy Bart a guitar. (R)
12.00	Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. Guest Anna Friel learns how to cook Balinese stew. (R)
1.00	Come Dine with Me. The first of a week of dinner parties in Co Durham. (R)
1.30	Come Dine with Me. Beauty teacher Ashleigh throws the second party in Co Durham. (R)
2.00	Come Dine with Me. Part-time farmer Stephen hosts the third night in Co Durham. (R)
2.30	Come Dine with Me. Prison transport officer Tina hopes to impress with a sophisticated French menu. (R)
3.00	Come Dine with Me. IT manager David hopes to secure the £1,000 prize with his French evening. (R)
3.35	A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun. Seeking a property in Almeria, Spain. (R)
4.35	Location, Location, Location. Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer go house-hunting in Hertfordshire. (R)
5.35	Channel 4 News.
6.05	Dogs Behaving Badly. Leading dog trainer Graeme "the Dogfather" Hall invites viewers to gain an insight into his work, which sees him tackle troublesome dogs - and their owners.
7.00	Crufts 2017. Clare Balding presents live coverage from the NEC in Birmingham, where she is joined by "Supervet" Professor Noel Fitzpatrick and Gogglebox's the Rev Kate Bottley.
9.00	FILM: Room (2015). Premiere. A woman living in captivity manages to escape with her son, who is confronted with a world he has never experienced. Drama, starring Brie Larson and Jacob Tremblay.
11.20	FILM: The Adjustment Bureau (2011). A politician discovers shadowy figures are manipulating his life and tries to resist the fate they have planned for him. Sci-fi thriller, starring Matt Damon and Emily Blunt.
1.15	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R)
2.05	Hollyoaks.
4.10	Shipping Wars UK. (R)
4.55	Four in a Bed. (R)
5.20	Building the Dream.

Channel 5	
6.00	Milkshake!: Peppa Pig 6.05 Peppa Pig 6.10 Milkshake! Monkey 6.15 Milkshake! Bop Box 6.20 Paw Patrol 6.30 Bob the Builder 6.40 Fireman Sam 6.55 Rupert Bear 7.05 Olly the Little White Van 7.10 Wanda and the Alien 7.20 Angelina Ballerina 7.35 Little Princess 7.45 Paw Patrol 8.00 Blaze and the Monster Machines 8.25 Noddy: Toyland Detective 8.40 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom 9.00 Shimmer and Shine 9.25 Peppa Pig 9.35 Peppa Pig 9.45 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
9.55	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.
10.30	Access.
10.35	Benefits Britain: Me & My 14 Kids. (R)
11.30	Benefits: On the Yorkshire Dole. (R)
12.25	Benefit Beauty Queens. People who aspire to glamorous lifestyles. (R)
1.25	Dance Moms. Christi lashes out at her daughter.
2.20	Dance Moms. The girls prepare for a Broadway casting director's visit.
3.15	Dance Moms. Christi is forced to choose between her family and her career.
4.10	The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. Two neighbours in Snowdonia National Park who ended up at loggerheads. (R)
5.05	Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. A dispute between a landlord and a tenant who refuses to leave. (R)
6.05	Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. Agents Paul and Steve face a moral dilemma in south London, when they find out the tenant they have been instructed to evict is on his way to a funeral. (R)
7.05	NCIS: Los Angeles. A vehicle transporting Jada Khaled to her criminal tribunal is ambushed, prompting the team to trace the culprit in an attempt to save her and the case.
8.00	NCIS. The secretary of the US Navy seeks the NCIS team's help in locating a suitable bone marrow donor for a sailor whose two Marine brothers were killed in the line of duty.
8.55	5 News Weekend.
9.00	Football on 5: The Championship. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce highlights from the weekend's games in the Championship, including Aston Villa v Sheffield Wednesday and Newcastle United v Fulham.
9.50	Football on 5: Goal Rush. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce action from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two, including Gillingham v Scunthorpe United and Cambridge United v Doncaster Rovers.
10.20	Live Boxing on 5. Craig Kennedy v Stephen Simmons. Coverage of the bout for the vacant British Cruiserweight title, which takes place at Motorpoint Arena in Cardiff, Wales.
12.10	SuperCasino.
3.10	FILM: London Boulevard (2010). Crime drama, with Colin Farrell and Keira Knightley.
4.50	House Doctor. (R)
5.15	Wildlife SOS. (R)
5.40	Angels of Jarm. (R)
5.50	Roary the Racing Car. (R)



SS-GB

9pm

The army imposes martial law and rounds up members of the resistance. Archer faces a life-changing decision when Barbara offers him a way to get himself and his son safely out of the country – but at the price of trusting her with something very precious. Sam Riley stars.



Robot Wars

7pm

Dara O Briain and Angela Scanlon present the second heat, as eight teams battle it out to win a single place in the grand final, pitting robots Cherub, PP3D, Draven, Push to Exit, Hobgoblin, Behemoth, Cobra and Eruption against each other in the arena.



Five Gold Rings

6.45pm

Phillip Schofield hosts the interactive game show, hosted by Phillip Schofield, in which a brother and sister compete against two Royal Navy shipmates to answer visual questions by placing rings on an LED floor in five increasingly difficult stages. Viewers can play along using the series app.



The Jump Live Final

8.30pm

The surviving celebrities face the final stage of the winter sports challenge to determine the overall champion. They go head to head in the Snow Cross and Ski Cross events, before heading to the top of the ski jump one last time to see who can cover the longest distance. Presented by Davina McCall.



The Nightmare Neighbour

Next Door

8pm
A quiet Suffolk street is torn apart by a 71-year-old man believed to be deliberately breaching the peace, while the Fergusons in Wolverhampton experience trouble with their neighbour, whose extension begins to invade their space.

BBC1

- 6.00 **Breakfast.**
- 7.40 **Match of the Day.** Highlights of Bournemouth v West Ham United. (R)
- 8.30 **Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights.** Action from the sixth round. (R)
- 9.00 **The Andrew Marr Show.**
- 10.00 **The Big Questions.** From the University of Kent in Canterbury.
- 11.00 **Sunday Politics West Midlands.** Presented by Andrew Neil.
- 12.15 **Bargain Hunt.** Two teams search for valuable items in Edinburgh. (R)
- 1.15 **BBC News; Weather.**
- 1.30 **Match of the Day Live: The FA Cup.** Tottenham Hotspur v Millwall (Kick-off 2.00pm). Coverage of the sixth-round encounter between the London rivals, which takes place at White Hart Lane.
- 4.00 **Escape to the Country.** Nicki Chapman and Alistair Appleton recall property searches in the East Midlands. (R)
- 5.00 **Songs of Praise.** Josie D'Arby investigates how the Church can help with the housing crisis.
- 5.35 **BBC News.**
- 5.50 **Midlands Today; Weather.**
- 6.00 **The Big Painting Challenge.** Mariella Frostrup and Rev Richard Coles challenge the artists to capture the human body in motion, painting first a solo dancer and then a whole troupe of ballerinas.
- 7.00 **Countryfile.** Adam Henson presents clips from the Countryfile Archive that illustrate how farming has changed in Britain, including a report on an underground farm in the middle of London.
- 8.00 **Call the Midwife.** Sister Julianne oversees the opening of a family planning clinic, while Barbara is distraught when she discovers her father has accepted a missionary posting. Last in the series.
- 9.00 **SS-GB.** The army imposes martial law and rounds up members of the resistance. Archer faces a life-changing decision when Barbara offers him a way to get himself and his son to safety.
- 10.00 **BBC News.**
- 10.20 **Midlands Today; Weather.**
- 10.30 **Match of the Day 2.** Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action, which saw Liverpool face Burnley at Anfield. Plus, action from yesterday's games including Hull City v Swansea City.
- 11.00 **Would I Lie to You?** Ben Miller, Henning Wehn, Doon Mackichan and Alex Brooker join team captains David Mitchell and Lee Mack in a bid to deceive their opponents with plausible lies. Rob Brydon hosts. (R)
- 11.30 **American High School.** The seniors look forward to the prom, but two of the organising committee are not speaking to each other. TJ visits his father in prison as he waits to hear if he is being expelled.
- 12.20 **The Celebrity Apprentice USA.** Donald Trump challenges the contestants to design a themed suite for a resort and host a party at the new Barclays Centre.
- 1.40 **Weather for the Week Ahead.**
- 1.45 **BBC News.**

BBC2

- 6.00 **A to Z of TV Gardening.** Carol Kirkwood looks at subjects beginning with the letter F. (R)
- 6.45 **An Island Parish.** Karen Le Mouton puts herself forward to be considered for ordination. (R)
- 7.15 **Around the World in 80 Gardens.** Monty Don visits the private oasis of artist Burle Marx. (R)
- 8.15 **Coast.** (R)
- 8.30 **Gardeners' World.** Tips for pruning and planting up pots for spring colour. (R)
- 9.00 **Countryfile.** The team explores the South Downs. (R)
- 10.00 **Saturday Kitchen Best Bites.** Matt Tebbutt presents highlights of the series.
- 11.30 **Nigel Slater's Dish of the Day.** Foods to suit different moods. (R)
- 12.00 **Simply Nigella.** The domestic goddess serves up a Thai noodle dish with cinnamon and prawns. (R)
- 12.30 **MOTD2 Extra.** Mark Chapman presents football discussion.
- 1.15 **Rivers with Griff Rhys Jones.** The actor explores the waterways of East Anglia. Last in the series. (R)
- 2.20 **FILM: Shall We Dance? (2004).** Romantic comedy, starring Richard Gere and Susan Sarandon.
- 4.00 **The House That £100K Built.** A couple attempt to build an ambitious modern home in Torquay. (R)
- 5.00 **Back to the Land with Kate Humble.** The presenter champions the UK's most inspirational rural entrepreneurs. (R)
- 6.00 **Six Nations Rugby Union.** John Inverdale introduces action from the penultimate weekend of the tournament, featuring Wales v Ireland, Italy v France and England v Scotland.
- 7.00 **Robot Wars.** Dara O Briain and Angela Scanlon present the second heat, as eight teams battle it out to win a single place in the grand final.
- 8.00 **Top Gear.** Matt LeBlanc and Chris Harris go on a road trip across the US in convertible supercars. Back at the test track, David Tennant is the Star in a Reasonably Fast Car.
- 9.00 **Down the Mighty River with Steve Backshall.** The naturalist travels down the Balliem River in New Guinea from its source to the sea. He begins his journey inland at Lake Habbema, and braves white water rapids.
- 10.00 **FILM: The Face of an Angel (2014).** Premiere. A journalist and a documentary-maker become obsessed with the murder case they are covering. Fact-based drama, with Daniel Bruhl, Kate Beckinsale and Cara Delevingne.
- 11.40 **Women's Six Nations Highlights.** Lee McKenzie is joined by Kat Merchant and Donna Kennedy to present action from the penultimate week, featuring Wales v Ireland, England v Scotland and Italy v France.
- 12.10 **Taboo.** (R)
- 1.05 **Taboo.** (R)
- 2.05 **Sign Zone: Question Time.** (R)
- 3.05 **Sign Zone: Holby City.** (R)
- 4.05 **This Is BBC2.**

ITV

- 6.00 **CITV: Bottom Knocker Street** 6.10 Bottom Knocker Street 6.25 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures 6.45 Sooty 6.55 Signed Stories: Share a Story 7.00 Oddbods 7.05 Thunderbirds Are Go
- 7.30 **Scrambled! Scrambled!**
- 7.35 **Scrambled: Mr Bean: The Animated Series.** (R)
- 7.50 **Scrambled: Ultimate Spider-Man: Web Warriors.**
- 8.20 **Scrambled: Horrid Henry.** (R)
- 8.45 **Scrambled: Teen Titans Go!**
- 9.05 **Scrambled: Adventure Time.** (R)
- 9.25 **ITV News.**
- 9.30 **Countrywise: Guide to Britain.** (R)
- 10.00 **Peston on Sunday.**
- 10.55 **Wild Australia with Ray Mears.** (R)
- 11.25 **Chopping Block.** (R)
- 12.25 **Who's Doing the Dishes?** With actress and stand-up comedian Crissy Rock. (R)
- 1.25 **ITV News and Weather; Weather.**
- 1.30 **The Voice UK.** The third of four, live knock-out rounds. (R)
- 2.45 **Little Big Shots.** Dawn French hosts the latest episode of the variety show. (R)
- 3.45 **The Chase.** Quiz show, hosted by Bradley Walsh. (R)
- 4.45 **Tipping Point.** Game show, hosted by Ben Shephard. (R)
- 5.45 **ITV News Central; Weather.**
- 6.00 **ITV News and Weather.**
- 6.15 **Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule.** The comic is joined by Lorraine Kelly, Kathy Burke, Joe Lycett and Ainsley Harriott for the madcap panel show, in which the aim is to save Earth from an alien invasion. (R)
- 6.45 **Five Gold Rings.** A brother and sister compete to identify images on an LED floor while viewers can play along using the series app. Hosted by Phillip Schofield.
- 7.45 **The Voice UK.** Emma Willis hosts the final night of the live knock-out rounds, in which the acts on Gavin Rossdale's team sing to earn their places in the quarter-finals.
- 9.00 **The Good Karma Hospital.** The first rains of the monsoon season start to fall as the tension between Lydia and Ruby rises, driving the younger doctor to make a shocking decision. Last in the series.
- 10.00 **ITV News and Weather; Weather.**
- 10.20 **The Nightly Show Best Bits.** Highlights of the second week of the entertainment show, with John Bishop presenting a mix of topical monologues, studio games, celebrity guests, stand-up and video clips.
- 10.50 **Peston on Sunday.** Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston, with ITV News National Editor Allegra Stratton. (R)
- 11.50 **Anglo-Welsh Cup Highlights.** David Flatman and Andy Goode present action from the semi-finals of the competition – Saracens v Leicester Tigers at Allianz Park and Exeter v Harlequins at Sandy Park.
- 12.40 **Jackpot247.**
- 3.00 **Chopping Block.** (R)

Channel 4

- 6.15 **The King of Queens.** Doug meets a long-lost friend. (R)
- 6.40 **The King of Queens.** The car breaks down. (R)
- 7.05 **The King of Queens.** Carrie discovers how lonely Spence is. (R)
- 7.30 **Everybody Loves Raymond.** Debra makes Ray jealous. (R)
- 7.55 **Everybody Loves Raymond.** Ray prepares to tell Ally the facts of life. (R)
- 8.25 **Frasier.** Lilith pays an unexpected visit. (R)
- 8.55 **Frasier.** Daphne hosts a dinner party. (R)
- 9.30 **Sunday Brunch.** With guests Bob Mortimer, Gok Wan and Chris Ramsey.
- 12.30 **The Simpsons.** Springfield gets a new telephone code. (R)
- 1.00 **The Simpsons.** With the voice of Drew Barrymore. (R)
- 1.30 **FILM: Cheaper By the Dozen (2003).** Family comedy remake, starring Steve Martin.
- 3.20 **George Clarke's Amazing Spaces.** A father and son build an ambitious cliff-top retreat – with no plans. (R)
- 4.25 **Location, Location, Location.** House-hunting in east London. (R)
- 5.30 **Channel 4 News.**
- 6.00 **Crufts 2017.** Clare Balding presents live coverage from the final day, including the Best in Show award. Plus, tips on making the most of a dog's relationship with children. Last in the series.
- 8.30 **The Jump Live Final.** The celebrities compete in the Snow Cross and Ski Cross events to determine who is the overall champion of the winter sports challenge. With Davina McCall.
- 9.30 **Homeland.** Carrie gets bad news, Saul makes a plan and Quinn accepts his situation.
- 10.30 **War Child.** Documentary following three child refugees from Afghanistan and Syria making a dangerous journey across Europe in the hope of finding sanctuary, often unaccompanied by adults.
- 11.40 **Gogglebox.** Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (R)
- 12.45 **FILM: Mama (2013).** A couple take in two orphans left alone in the woods, unaware a supernatural force is watching over the children. Horror, starring Jessica Chastain and Nikolaj Coster-Waldau.
- 2.25 **The Last Leg.** Comedian Harry Hill and physicist Brian Cox join Adam Hills, Josh Widdicombe and Alex Brooker for a comic review of the significant moments of the past seven days. (R)
- 3.20 **Phil Spencer: Secret Agent.** The property expert helps an engaged couple in Tunstall, Kent, who cannot sell their cottage due to their previous DIY attempts. (R)
- 4.15 **Shipping Wars UK.** Items include a Piaggio tuk tuk and a pair of swan pedalo boats. (R)
- 4.55 **Jamie's Comfort Food.** Jamie Oliver gives some of the nation's favourite dishes a twist. (R)
- 5.05 **Fifteen to One.** (R)

Channel 5

- 6.00 **Milkshake!** Peppa Pig 6.05 Peppa Pig 6.10 Paw Patrol 6.25 Bob the Builder 6.35 Fireman Sam 6.45 Rupert Bear 6.55 Olly the Little White Van 7.00 Wanda and the Alien 7.10 Angelina Ballerina 7.30 Little Princess 7.40 Paw Patrol 8.00 Blaze and the Monster Machines 8.15 Noddy: Toyland Detective 8.40 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom 8.55 Shimmer and Shine 9.25 Peppa Pig 9.35 Peppa Pig 9.45 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
- 9.55 **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** Raphael loses his confidence.
- 10.30 **Football on 5: The Championship.** Highlights from the weekend's games in the Championship. (R)
- 11.20 **Football on 5: Goal Rush.** Goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two. (R)
- 11.50 **The Gadget Show.** Craig Charles and Georgie Barrat join the team. (R)
- 12.50 **FILM: Gorillas in the Mist (1988).** Fact-based drama, starring Sigourney Weaver.
- 3.20 **Celebrity Carry on Barging.** The quartet learn about canal architect Thomas Telford. (R)
- 4.15 **Celebrity Carry on Barging.** The quartet travel along the Llangollen Canal. Last in the series. (R)
- 5.15 **Cruising with Jane McDonald.** The singer sails the River Danube on one of the most luxurious ships of its type. (R)
- 6.10 **Inside Windsor Castle.** A look back at events that shaped the monarchy between 1952 and 1972, as Prince Philip grew restless and the Queen Mother reportedly ran up debts of £7million. (R)
- 7.00 **Inside Windsor Castle.** A look at 20 years in the life of the Queen and her family, covering the era from 1972, when she celebrated her 25th wedding anniversary, to 1992. Last in the series. (R)
- 8.00 **The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door.** A Wolverhampton couple experience trouble with a neighbour whose extension is invading their space, while a former soldier takes the law into his own hands. (R)
- 8.55 **5 News Weekend.**
- 9.00 **FILM: The Equalizer (2014).** Premiere. An ex-secret agent fights to bring down a crime syndicate after coming to the aid of an abused prostitute. Action thriller, with Denzel Washington and Chloe Grace Moretz. Includes 5 News Update at 10pm.
- 11.35 **FILM: Harry Brown (2009).** An elderly retired marine takes the law into his own hands when his friend is murdered by hoodlums on a London estate. Crime thriller, starring Michael Caine and Emily Mortimer. Edited to fit time slot.
- 1.20 **SuperCasino.**
- 3.10 **Secrets of the National Trust with Alan Titchmarsh.** (R)
- 4.00 **Witches: A Century of Murder.** (R)
- 4.50 **House Doctor.** (R)
- 5.15 **Wildlife SOS.** (R)
- 5.40 **Angels of Jarm.** (R)
- 5.50 **Roary the Racing Car.** (R)

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2011 11	JAGUAR XF LUXURY 3.0 DIESEL AUTO, Silver Metallic with Heated Leather Seats, Sat Nav, Reverse Camera,	£11,499
2013 63	LAND ROVER FREELANDER 2 TD4 XS, manual, Metallic Black, 1 Owner, 19" Alloy Wheels, Leather, Sat Nav, Top Spec, 73,000 miles	£15,499
2010 60	LAND ROVER FREELANDER 2 GS AUTO, Grey Metallic, New Shape, 2 Owners, 33,000 Miles, FSH.....	£13,999
2010 60	LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER SPORT 3.0 TD6V HSE AUTO. Baltic Blue with Almond Leather, 59,000 Miles, FSH.....	£21,499
2005 55	MERCEDES A180 CDi 5 door, Manual, Metallic Silver, 81,000 miles	£2,999
2011 11	MINI COOPER CLUBMAN 1.6 Diesel Estate, Black, 69,000 miles, FSH, £20 Road Tax,	£7,999
2011 61	MINI COOPER 2.0 SD CLUBMAN 5dr, Sat Nav, Red & Black, One Owner, 36,000 miles, FSH, £30 Road Tax	£9,999
2006 56	MITSUBISHI SHOGUN SPORT 2.5 TROJAN DIESEL, Black Metallic, Leather Seats, 2 Owners, 64,000 Miles,	£5,499
2007 57	OPEL ANTARA CDTi 4WD MANUAL Metallic Blue, 74,000 miles	£6,299
2014 14	PEUGEOT RCZ 1.6 GT COUPE, Grey Metallic with White Leather, 19" Alloys, One Owner, Only 10,000 Miles.....	£13,999
2007 07	PEUGEOT 207 1.4 HDi, 5 Door, manual £30 Road Tax, metallic Grey, 78,000 miles	£2,499
2007 07	PEUGEOT 407 COUPE 3.0 V6 Manual Metallic Black Red leather 52,000 miles	SOLD
2014 14	RENAULT CAPTUR 1.5 DCi M-NAV 5 DOOR, Blue Metallic with Black Roof, 27,000 Miles, FSH, Zero Road Tax	SOLD
2014 14	SUZUKI S CROSS 1.6 Manual, Metallic Blue, 30,000 miles, 1 Owner, FSH	£8,299
2009 09	VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 2.0 CDTi SE, Hatch, manual, Metallic Silver, 80,000 miles, FSH	£4,999
2015 15	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 CDTi 5 Door, Tech Line, 47,000 miles, Metallic Blue, 1 Owner.....	£8,499
2013 13	VAUXHALL CASCADA SE 2.0 CDTi CONVERTIBLE, Blue Metallic, Electric Hood, 15,000 Miles, One Owner, FSH,	£11,999
2013 13	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0 S 5-door, Manual, Bright Red, 15,000 miles, FSH	£5,999
2015 15	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 CDTi 5 DOOR TECH LINE, Blue Metallic, 47000Miles, FSH, 20 Road Tax	£8,499
2012 62	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.7 CDTi Sri, 5 Door, Manual, 25,000 miles, Metallic Grey, FSH	£7,499
2013 63	VOLVO V60 R – DESIGN 1.6 Diesel, Manual, Metallic Blue, 1 Owner, 53,000 miles, Heated Seats, Bluetooth	£12,999
2006 56	VOLVO C30 1.8 SE 3-door, Green Metallic with Leather Seats, 66,000 Miles, 17" Alloy Wheels	£3,999
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2012 63 FORD FIESTA STUDIO 1.4 TDCi 5 DOOR, Silver Metallic, 59,000 Miles, £20 Road Tax, £5,499



2007 57 BMW X3 2.0 20d SE, 5 door, Bronze Metallic, 4WD, Full service history, 76,000 miles £6,999



2011 61 MINI COOPER 2.0 SD CLUBMAN 5dr, Sat Nav, Red & Black, One Owner, 36,000 miles, FSH, £30 Road Tax £9,999



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ROAD TEST



By Graham Breeze

SEAT don't do things by halves these days and the arrival of the new Ateca has already given the company a massive boost.

SEAT's first venture into the compact SUV market couldn't have better foundations than the MQB platform that has underpinned just about every new VW Group model over the last few years. So it was a no-brainer really.

The real question is why it took them so long to join the fray where the likes of Nissan Qashqai, Ford Kuga and Renault Kadjar have been winning plaudits and sales growth?

Or was it a wise and well thought out ploy of watching and waiting to see what the small SUV sector really wanted because the new Ateca really does now tick all the right boxes.

The strangely named Ateca follows SEAT tradition in being named after a small Spanish village, is a sister model to the Leon and although designed by the Spanish brand, is built at the Kvasiny, Czech Republic factory of sister VW Group brand Skoda.

Rocket

It's all about image at SEAT these days and bosses see the Ateca taking the brand a step further, predicting the company's UK market share will rock from 54% to 75% with this latest arrival as well as promising a baby brother Arona due in July.

The Ateca becomes SEAT's third brand pillar alongside Ibiza and Leon and there are five trim levels S, SE, First Edition, SE Technology and Excellence with trim and technology packages to match. All the signs suggest it may become as important to the company as Ibiza and Leon have. There's a choice of five engines, two

There's a choice of five engines, two petrol 1.0TSi 115 and 1.4 TSi 150, and three diesels, 1.6TDi 115, 2.0 TDi 150 and 190 with four-wheel drive available on both the 2.0 TDi engines.

Prices start at around £18,000 for the entry model but the Xcellence 2.0TDi 4 Drive 190PS 7-speed DSG automatic recently tested will set you back £30,000 and you can add an extra £5k if you want the 8-inch screen navigation system with 3D mapping, advanced comfort pack and a few others such as a tow bar.

Others such as a tow bar.
You do get a lot of standard kit for that price though such as LED daytime lighting, split folding rear seats, touchscreen infotainment system, Bluetooth and steering wheel mounted radio and phone controls.

The door mirrors get welcome lights which silhouette the SEAT logo onto the floor to help show you home, LED



It's easy to get comfortable with loads of adjustment options

interior lighting, sports seats, leather upholstery and a convenience pack which includes rain and light sensors, auto-dipping rear view mirror and 18inch alloys.

Outwardly the Ateca is as good looking as any other SUV on the UK market, but you wouldn't say it stands out and I'm not sure SEAT has done enough inside either.

Behind the wheel it's typically SEAT but I wanted to be oozing compliments about the fascia but found little to excite

It's easy to get comfortable though, either as driver or passenger with loads of adjustment options. You sit high up and all-round visibility is excellent. There's more room inside than most families will ever need with

leg room in plenty supply and space for three rear seat passengers.

The boot is impressively deep with a false floor and rear seats fold away neatly to give that extra room when needed. There's plenty of room to house the golf clubs too.

The 2.0litre TDi is impressively quick with a top speed of 132mph and 0-62mph in 7.5 seconds. On top of that average fuel consumption tops 53mpg and CO2 levels are more than acceptable at 135g/km.

If you are looking for a combination of style, space and performance the Ateca may be just what you are looking for and judging by the noises from the SEAT boardroom the suits are happy with the way things are going.

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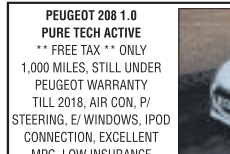
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Baker on the move with Aber loan deal

DEFENDER Phil Baker has switched from The New Saints to Welsh Premier rivals Aberystwyth Town in a loan move to the end of the season.

The experienced Baker has had limited opportunities for the Saints this season, making just six starting appearances and six from the substitutes' bench.

One of the longest serving players at the club, the 34-year-old joined TNS in 2005, having had spells with Tranmere Rovers and Exeter City.

Baker picked up the Dafabet Welsh Premier League Clubman of the Year accolade at the 2016 FAW awards in Cardiff back in October.

He famously scored the winning goal against Cliftonville in the UEFA Europa League first qualifying round victory back in 2011, while he also captained the Saints in their League Cup final triumph against Bala Town in 2015.

He will now be hoping to revive fortunes at Aber who currently languish in 10th place the table.

Baker's first game resulted in a 2-2 draw at home to Rhyl, with the defender having an assist for the home side's second goal through Geoff Kellaway.

■ TNS' Welsh Cup tie with Gap Connah's Quay will be played at the home of Bangor City on Saturday April 1 (2.30pm). The second semi-final between Bala Town and Caernarfon Town takes place later on the same day at Rhyl (5.15pm).

Guilsfield see chances go begging

GUILSFIELD were left to rue squandered chances after producing one of their best performances of the season in their goalless draw with second placed Caernarfon Town in the Huws Gray Cymru Alliance.

As well as hitting both the post and bar, the Guils also spurned a penalty two minutes from time through Adam Jenkins as they slipped down to eighth position in the table.

Caernarfon had arrived at Clos Mytton on the back of an impressive seven goal mauling of Llanfair United in the Welsh Cup the week before, but suffered a blank on their return to mid Wales.

And it was the hosts who looked the greater threat through their lively four man attack of Louis Irvine, Jake Cook, Adam Jenkins, and Sam Litchfield.

The impressive Irvine hit the post in the first half, Cook was also denied by the woodwork after the break, while Jenkins saw his penalty kept out by a terrific save from Alex Ramsay in the closing moments.

The Guils were given a golden opportunity to snatch victory in the latter stages when referee Tom Owen awarded a penalty after an infringement in the box by Gareth Edwards.

TNS U19s beaten by Flint again

TNS under-19s saw their title hopes in the Welsh Premier Development League (North) suffer a setback with a 2-1 home defeat to Flint Town United.

Having already lost to Flint in both the league and youth cup already this season, the Saints were dealt another blow with a third defeat that leaves them one point adrift of leaders Bangor City and having played a game more.

TNS opened the scoring through Harvey Plimmer, forcing the ball home after latching onto an under-hit back pass. The visitors were back on terms with a header from a corner before half-time.

Flint began to take control in the second half and, despite Andy Wycherley impressing in goal, bagged the winner from a rebound.

Four-star TNS lift title No 6 in style

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

RUNAWAY leaders The New Saints lifted a sixth successive Dafabet Welsh Premier crown at a canter after brushing aside Bangor City 4-0 to spark more title celebrations at Park Hall.

Despite being kept at bay for much of the first half, four goals in 22 minutes either side of the interval ensured more championship glory for the Oswestry club – with seven league games to spare.

The league title, their 11th in all, was duly sealed courtesy of a dominant campaign for the Saints who have lost just once in the league and dropped just five points in their 25 games to date.

It was another performance worthy of champions, who had enough chances to have emerged far more emphatic winners as they attacked with pace throughout.

Their latest success took their tally of league goals to 83 with just 15 conceded for a stunning difference of 68.

Jamie Mullan led the way with two goals and an assist as he led City's makeshift left back Sion Edwards a merry dance, while Adrian Cieslewicz and Steve Saunders also found the net.

Bangor battled hard, had some opportunities themselves, but rarely looked likely to spoil the Saints party once they fell behind to Cieslewicz's opener a minute before half time.

With second placed Bala Town being held 1-1 by Gap Connah's Quay the night before, it meant that three points for the Saints against Bangor would secure another league crown.

And they duly wrapped up the title in style, carving several good opportunities in the first half only to find keeper Connor Roberts again in good form.

Fine saves

Roberts made several fine saves the week before in the Saints' 2-1 extra time Welsh Cup win, and was soon in the action again to keep out a couple of goal bound efforts.

The City stopper pulled off fine saves from Wes Fletcher, Mullan and a Saunders header, but Paul Harrison was also called into duty at the other end to deny headed efforts from Gary Taylor-Fletcher and Daniel Nardiello.

Man-of-the match Mullan was finding more and more space, and fired one shot straight at keeper Connor Roberts from the edge of the box as the game continued to open up.

But the goal that threatened arrived on the stroke of half time when Jon Routledge's pass freed Mullan in the right of the box and the winger crossed firmly into the goalmouth for Cieslewicz to slide in from close range.

It was a timely breakthrough, and the Saints never looked back after that as three more goals followed soon after the interval.

Mullen doubled the lead when firing home at the back post five minutes after the interval after being left in space from Ryan Brobbel's cross.

Saunders then rose at the back post to head home from another Brobbel's left wing delivery three minutes later.

The scoring and the title was wrapped up as Mullan weaved his way through the box before smashing his second goal past Roberts on 66 minutes.

Ex-pro kicks off Ellesmere academy



Ellesmere College footballers and members of the Edukick coaching team with ex-pro Jon Macken

ELLESMERE College will this September launch its first football academy with Edukick Manchester.

The Football Academy is a programme for young players who have aspirations to play football at a high level or work in the football industry but also appreciate the importance of their education.

The programme will deliver professional academy standard football coaching alongside subject-based qualifications including GCSEs, BTEC Diploma in Sport, A Levels or the International Baccalaureate.

The school has long been associated with sporting excellence in rugby, tennis and swimming, and the football academy has been designed to emulate their success.

Ellesmere College will be supported by Edukick Manchester, who employs full-time UEFA qualified coaches and bring its 10-year pedigree of player development to the programme.

EduKick will also provide a number of global connections within the football community, including academies in Brazil, USA, Mexico and Europe. In addition to a robust academic timetable, students will participate in at least 12 hours of football coaching per week.

Advise

Each player will receive an individual player plan to develop fitness, strength and conditioning, physiotherapy, nutrition and dietary advice, along with the opportunity to enjoy international tours, games against professional clubs, and visits to top sports universities.

Players will also have the opportunity to attend football trials endorsed by the Professional Football Scouts Association (PFSA).

Jon Macken, ex-Premiership footballer who played for Manchester City and Preston, said, "We are trying to help our young players form a strong idea of where they want to go in football.

"What positions they want to play, how they want to play, and what style of football they want to play. We implement a belief in them to push on in their career, whatever that may be. Whether that be at a high-level football or playing in a lower league.

"Everything we do is designed to improve our young players' technical ability and understanding."

With the title secured, TNS brought on Romanian under-21 centre-back Mihai Leca for his first taste of first team action

As well as lifting the title, Anna Oxford, of the Guinness World Records, also presented the Saints with a certificate to mark their world record run of 27 successive wins.

Battling Town show big improvement



FC Oswestry keeper Richard Cowderoy lines up his wall. ■ Pic: Ian Jones.

DESPITE a positive finish to the game, FC Oswestry Town found themselves edged out 1-0 at Charnock Richard in the Hallmark North West Counties League division one.

A goal from Carl Grimshaw four minutes into the second half was enough to separate the sides on a testing surface.

However, it was a big improvement from when Town were thumped 5-0 at home to the Chorley club back in December, with promising signs towards the end of the encounter.

"We're doing more homework now on teams, and it's making a difference," said boss Mike Barton.

"The league's new to us this season, and we want to find out as much about it as we can. We're a lot more prepared."

Despite the defeat, the Oswestry side remain 11th in the table, and will look to bounce back at home to Carlisle City at Park Hall on Saturday (3pm).

Heavy conditions made the going tough for both sides, with Town struggling to create many openings in the

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

first period. Charnock Richard got the only goal of the game three minutes into the second half when a long ball found its way into the Town box, a shot was saved by keeper Richard Cowderoy but Grimshaw was on hand to fire in the rebound.

After that, the Oswestry side grew into the game with Tom Rowlands chipping against the bar, while Brendon Price and Craig Harris both put in some testing crosses into the box.

They pushed for a leveller, Rob Shone going close with a header while the visitors had strong claims for a penalty turned down following a challenge on Rowlands.

The wet weather had the last word as **FC OSWESTRY RESERVES** had no action with their clash at Whitchurch Alport Juniors postponed due to a waterlogged surface.

SR MARTINS VILLAGE succumbed 3-1 at home to Newport Town Reserves in the same division, Jonny Mitchell getting their goal.

Games are building up for Llanfair as rain wins

GAMES are starting to mount up for Llanfair United who suffered a second postponement in a week when their crunch Cymru Alliance clash at basement rivals Conwy Borough was called off due to a waterlogged pitch.

The latest call-off came just three days after their trip to Holywell Town in midweek also fell victim to the weather, leaving Rhys Stephen's side still with 10 games to play

Meanwhile, the goals flowed as Caersws ran out 5-3 winners at Gresford Athletic to boost hopes of a high finish.

Sean Evans fired the first with a 25-yard free-kick early on and, after several other missed opportunities, Mike Collister slotted a second from a free-kick before the interval.

Two goals after the break put the Bluebirds further in charge, with Luke Evans cutting in from the right t fire home on the hour and two minutes later Iwan Lewis linked with Will Thomas to make it 4-0.

Gresford reduced the arrears through Sam Richardson (69) and Jack Jones (75), but Lewis bagged his second to dismiss any hope of a fightback.

Hohn Collo did pull back a third for the hosts but sub Rhyddian Davies had chances to increase the visitors' tally late on.

Saturday's fixtures (2.30)

Huws Gray Cymru Alliance: Conwy Borough v Buckley Town, Flint Town United v Penryncoch, Holyhead Hotspur v Denbigh Town, Holywell Town v Guilsfield, Llanfair United v Caernarfon Town, Mold Alex v Ruthin Town, Porthmadog v Caersws, Prestatyn Town v Gresford Athletic.

Berriew see title chances start to fade

BERRIEW'S title challenge in the Spar Mid Wales League division one continues to fade after going down 2-0 at Hay St Mary's.

After suffering their first league defeat since August when edged out 3-2 at Llanrhaeadr the week before, a second successive loss at the hands of Hay looks now appears to have put paid to their hopes.

With just three games remaining, Dave Jones' side are still four points behind leaders Rhayader Town who - without a game last weekend - still have four games to play.

Captain Brendan Hackett scored both of Hay's goals, the first from the penalty spot, to consolidate his side's place in the top half of the table.

At the other end of the table, **WELSHPOOL'S** pursuit of much needed points in their bid to escape the drop zone was put on hold as their home clash with Aberaeron was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch.

Llandrindod Wells' encounter with Bow Street was another casualty of the wet weather, as was Machynlleth's home fixture with Knighton Town.

Kerry, flying high in division two, were also scuppered by the elements when their home encounter with improving Dyffryn Banw was called off.

Churchstoke's trip to Presteigne was another casualty of a drenched surface.

Lowly **FOUR CROSSES** remain deep in the basement mire after their 2-1 home reverse at the hands of Abermule.

LLANSANTFFRAID VILLAGE'S poor run continued when going down 1-0 to promotion chasing Borth United at Aberystwyth's Park Avenue ground, Liam Lewis getting the game's only goal in a tough battle.

Victory saw second placed Borth move to within six points of leaders Kerry, while the Villagers are fourth bottom.

Newbridge maintained their fine form with a 6-1 beating of rock bottom P

Radnor Valley beat the elements to overcome Tywyn Brynrcrug 4-2 in their delayed fourth round tie, setting up a trip to Aberaeron in the last eight.

Aussies on way to play England at Morda Road

FORMER Shropshire and Shrewsbury skipper John Foster is preparing for another Ashes battle with the Australians - whose itinerary this summer includes a game in Oswestry.

Foster, who is still president of Shrewsbury CC and Performance Director at Cricket Shropshire, has again been appointed as skipper for the England over-60s side.

He led this team on a successful tour of Australia in the autumn which saw England retain the Ashes with a 2-1 victory in the one-day Test match series Down Under.

Australia over-60s are touring England this summer - and their provisional itinerary includes a game against their Shropshire counterparts at Oswestry CC's Morda Road ground on Wednesday, July 19.

They are also playing John's England side in three One Day International Tests during the tour, and those games are scheduled to take place in the Lancashire area, at Kidderminster and Salisbury.

"I am honoured and delighted to have been asked to captain England again this summer and have the chance to take on the Australians on home soil," said Foster.

"We had a thoroughly enjoyable - and successful - tour of Australia in the autumn, and the reception we had was excellent. I hope we can reciprocate that welcome for the tourists, but at the same time retain the Ashes."

Over-50s and over-60s cricket is becoming more popular across Britain with a growing number of teams involved in county championship, playing regular mid-week games.



Action from COBRA's defeat (from left): scum-half Bryn Davies spinning the ball out wing Will Worthington looks to get to grips with a Llandudno attack and prop Nico Williams recycling the ball in COBRA's 17-0 defeat at Llandudno. ■ Pics: Trevor Jones.



COBRA facing nervy end to the season

RUGBY by John Bridgwater

COBRA'S hopes of escaping the drop in rugby's North Wales League division one remain the balance after slumping 17-0 in a dour encounter away to Llandudno.

Defeat keeps the Meifod side second bottom, and four points adrift of fellow strugglers Bethesda who lost 21-15 in their basement battle at home to Ruthin.

Having secured a hard-fought 11-8 success at home to Mold in their previous outing, it was a disappointing outcome, leaving COBRA with plenty to do in their remaining five games.

On Saturday, they face a tough home encounter with third placed Caernarfon who themselves stunned title chasing Nant Conwy 16-15 last weekend.

It was a turgid encounter for most part, with little to excite the watching spectators in a first half, which ended 0-0, before Llandudno opened the scoring after the interval with a penalty.

The visitors then had Ieuan Williams somewhat harshly yellow carded and, when down to 14 men, they were breached as the home side bagged the first of their two tries, which was converted.

Despite the hard work of back rowers Jack Jukes and Lee Hughes, COBRA struggled to find a way back, with three injuries not helping their cause, including the loss of second row Lloyd Bright with ankle ligaments damage.

Their fate was sealed by a second Llandudno try late on, with the home side pouncing to touch down from a knock-on, although the ball did not appear to be grounded.

With time running out this season, the Meifod men will need to dig deep if they are to stay up, and must look to win at least three of their remaining five games, including those against fellow strugglers Bethesda and Ruthin.

WELSHPOOL halted a five match winning run as they returned to winning ways in the North Two East by overcoming lowly Flint 32-19 at Maesdyre.

Having crashed 50-0 at promotion-chasing Llanidloes with a weekend team in their previous action, it was a good response from Pool who had dominated the first half to lead 22-0 at the break.

Despite a fightback in the second period from Flint, the home side held firm to seal a deserved win in the last game before the league split. They were again struggling for numbers, and had to call on three youth teamers who without a game.

No8 Joe Stranks led the way with four tries, including a first half hat-trick, while youth team fly half Dan Earle kicked 12 points to help seal the welcome victory.

Moreton girls hit the heights



The Moreton girls in the regional squad (from left): Cordelia Harpin, Amelia Wray, Yasmin Hui, Charlotte Clark, Eleanor Mason, Rosie Simpson, Amelia Hacking, Verity Carryer and (right) Cordelia Harpin

A STAGGERING number of girls from Moreton Hall have been selected for the North Regional Lacrosse under-15 and under-18 teams.

After showcasing their lacrosse experience and talent, eight pupils been chosen to represent the North of England in the Regional Academy tournament in April.

Those getting the call were Alysha Brown, Verity Carryer, Amelia Hacking, Yasmin Hui, Amelia Wray, Charlotte Clark, Eleanor Mason and Cordelia Harpin.

Despite it being the first time talented Cordelia has embarked on this challenging selection process, she has been selected to play beyond her years for the under-18

North regional team - at the age of 14.

She was selected after an intense two-day course where coaches instructed budding sporting stars on different assets of the game, culminating in a series of matches where participants were given the chance to shine.

Cordelia commented: "When they read out my name, I was so shocked and surprised. It is my dream to play for England. It's what I want to do, and now I feel like one step closer."

This is an excellent achievement for all the girls, as they now are on the path for potential national and international sporting success.



Good Evans as Morda in semis of cup

A JAMIE Evans hat-trick and a goal apiece from Harry Davies and Liam Edwards took Morda United through to the semi-final of the Llansantffraid Village Cup with a 5-3 victory over Berriew Reserves.

Berriew played their part in an entertaining game with Josh Gethin, Brad Carr and Mikey Henderson-Smith finding the net as they stayed in the hunt.

Morda started this tie at Weston Road with several teenagers in the squad and Zac Williams making his club debut in goal.

All acquitted themselves well with Williams pulling off fine saves at key times from Josh Gethin in the first half and from Carr midway through the second period.

Davies and Edwards went close for Morda early on before Evans opened the scoring with a good finish on twenty minutes.

The visitors equalised on the half hour when Gethin pounced on a bobbling ball to fire home.

Morda, however, regained the lead five minutes before the break when an Adam Jones corner found the net from Davies with Evans in attendance.

Edwards marked an impressive return from injury extending Morda's lead finding the net from a near impossible angle five minutes after the break.

The Rhiewsidiers hit back with half an hour remaining when Carr met a cross to find the roof of the net.

Evans then claimed his second for the hosts when winning the ball and

Pool ladies up to third

WELSHPOOL Ladies are looking good in third spot in the North Wales Women's Hockey League division one after winning 2-1 at Ruthin Ladies in their penultimate game.

Meanwhile, **OSWESTRY** Ladies slumped 4-1 at home to Macclesfield to remain fourth from bottom in the Cheshire Women's Hockey League division two. Next up is a trip to Bebington on Saturday.

Latest golf returns from Shropshire golf clubs

HENLLE PARK

4BBB Pairs Comp: C Jones & W Jones 44pts; M Pugh-Jones & A Edwards 43pts (cb); M Elson & S Page 43pts.

Seniors' Yellow Ball: G Bellis, M Cunningham & A James 107pts; T Dodd, J Bostock & A Elwin 99pts; B Milburn, F Thomas & R Harris 99pts.

HILL VALLEY

January Emerald Stableford: J Robinson-Parker 41pts (10) 10.4; M Musgrove 38pts (13) 13.3; M McClusky 38pts (17) 16.9.

Ladies' No Stableford (Sapphire) 9 Holes: G Thomas 14pts (18); C Ellwood 11pts (21); S Lockett 10pts (22).

LLANYMYNECH

Captain's Drive-in (9 Hole Stableford): M Ferguson & N Morris 25pts; M Oakley & D Hughes 25pts; A Roberts & A Williams 25pts.

Three Clubs and a Putter: J Bailey 42pts; D Jones 38pts; M Owen 38pts; G Edwards 38pts; T King 36pts; N Clewlow 36pts; A Hilditch 35pts; P Davies 35pts; B Beckett 35pts.

February Stableford Division 1: D Collins 39pts; G Griffiths 38pts; B Hall 38pts; E Roberts 37pts; B Beckett 37pts; R Pugh 37pts; Division 2: J Cookson 42pts; Dr J Brice 41pts; J Cleaton 41pts; D Jones 39pts; R Hardy 39pts; P Jones 39pts; Division 3: C Logsdail 45pts; T Maitra 43pts; H Lloyd-Jones 43pts; P Davies 42pts; G Purslow 41pts; B W C Jones 40pts.

South African Stableford: S Pritchard & C Andrew 82pts; T Barlow & R Walker 82pts; T Williams & G Pugh 81pts.

Ladies' Invitation to the Gentlemen Stableford, Canadian Greensomes Winners: D Chadwick & D Griffiths 48pts. Runner Up: P Sevant & B Suckley 46pts.

MILE END

Captains Drive In Winners: R Pugh, M Tinsdale, G Manson, C Williblood 132pts. Runners Up: G Harper, R Grocott, R Burke, T Parkes 126pts. Third Place: J Barry, A Pugh, J Dean, S Smith 123pts.

Sunday Social: R Grocott, R Adkins, J Cattaneo 43pts; J Turner, P Eke, B Jones 43pts; S Ball, A Eke, P Cattaneo 40pts.

Team Yellow Ball: R Wale, P Davies, T Rowlands 137pts; B Power, I Horler, S Smith 124pts; R Adkin, M Tisdale, M Godfrey 122pts.

OSWESTRY

February Stableford Division 1: S Probert 40; S Eamnden 38 (cb); M Rooke 36; M Jennings 35 (cb); J Poole 35 (cb); S Hughes 35 (cb). Division 2: S Ashworth 39; P Evans 36; J T Taylor 35; R Williams 34; A Lewis 34 (cb); G Griffiths 34 (cb). Division 3: S Owen 38; J Deane 36; B Bowe 35; S Gittins 34; S Pierce 34 (cb); P Hayward 34 (cb). Best Gross: S Probert 70.

Ladies' Draw For Partners, Birdy-Par-Bogey (18 Holes): P McLean, J Williams, A Colquhoun (HP) 109pts; A Garbet, A Davies, J Mitchell 107pts; D Jones, G Edge, M Brogden 100pts (cb); M Crane, M Allford, M Landgrebe 100pts (cb); R Wigley, A Barker, M Shakeshaft 99pts; K Jones, V Bondi, S Baxter 99pts; D Hall, M Green, V Challinor 88pts; A Colquhoun, B Bewley, J Bucknall 86pts. (9 Holes): J Edwards, M Evans, S Wilson 56pts; B Seaborn, R Morris, W Horan 47pts; P Derbyshire, S Kelly, G Ankers 42pts; J Goff, J Williams, J Shaw 41pts; E Gill, E Gwill, J Davies 40pts; J Ferris, B Fone, B Wigley 38pts.

THE BROW

Take 2 Trophy: T Brough 57-10.56=46.44; K Abbott 61-12.54=48.46; D Talbot 65-15.18=49.82.

Moore gloom as the seconds are edged out

OSWESTRY'S second string were left frustrated after being edged out 14-10 at basement rivals Moore in rugby's North West Freshet League division four.

Despite having a strengthened side, the Eagles faced a tough task on a heavy pitch against a huge Moore pack that had a weight advantage of two stone per man.

From the kick off, Moore rumbled through the mud with their big forwards making some good ground, but they were held at bay by some fearless tackling.

The visitors were ahead when some good play carved an opening that was finished off by Scott Valley under the posts with the conversion added. Moore were stung into a response, and powered over for two converted tries to go ahead at the break, before the Eagles reduced the arrears to 14-10 early in the second period with a penalty.

With the wind at their backs, they pressured for a score with Tom Booth appearing to touch down only for the try to be disallowed.

Elliot Wilson then picked up from a breakdown and went over under the posts, but the referee brought play back for an Oswestry penalty.

Llanymynech maintain form

LLANYMYNECH maintained their revival in the Montgomeryshire League division one with a 3-2 win over Llanfair United Reserves.

An own goal, plus strikes from Lee Rogers and Cal Whyte secured another three points, with United responding through Toby Evans and Callum Foulkes.

Fired-up Guilsfield are top of the table

SHOOTING by John Bridgwater

Parr pitching in with 34s.

Churchstoke maintained their push for the title with a well earned home victory against Crew Green B when prevailing 206.5 to 198.2.

This result leaves them two points behind the leaders but have two matches in hand as this season's title chase looks set to go to the wire.

Jane Thomas started the pellets flying with another possible 35.3 adding to her impressive haul this season, and Owen Stimpson also shot a possible of 35.3.

Not to be outdone Crew Green's very own Adam Hilditch got himself a possible of 35.4.

Castle held on to their fourth spot with a closely contested away win at Newtown 197.1 to 193.3 with one youth and one senior showing the way.

Young Tabitha Corbett high scored for Newtown

with 34.3 and senior Hywel Morgan led the way for Castle on 34.2.

Guilsfield B maintained their recent good form to use home advantage to beat a young Forden side 200.2 to 181.7.

Sarah Williams impressed for the home team when getting her first possible of 35.2, ably supported by Catherine Farmer and Paul Edwards who both fired 34.2.

Crew Green A had home advantage over a depleted Llanfair and with a solid overall team performance claimed the spoils 200.6 to 189.4.

Dave Morgan scored a possible 35.3 with great support from Nigel Kelton (34.5) and Edward Kelton (34.2). Llanfair replied through Dai Williams (34.4) and Nick Lloyd (34.1).

With 11 shooters getting possibles, and Sarah Williams firing her first, a magnificent maximum of 35.7 earned Guilsfield A's Keiron Cornell the shooter of the week honour.



Milly wins a call-up to the England side



Rising lacrosse star Milly Home

RISING star Milly Home has realised a childhood dream by gaining a coveted place in the England under-19s lacrosse team.

Beating fierce competition in a tough selection process of regional tournaments and National Academy training, the 15-year-old pupil from Moreton Hall School will now join 17 other players to represent her country on the national and international stage.

Milly's journey and love for Lacrosse began at the age of 11, with her passion and skill continually developing over the past three years to put her on the path to national glory.

She has seen a dramatic improvement to such an extent that her efforts were rewarded last year when she was selected to play for the B team, before now progressing to the As.

Her determination and drive has seen her through as she takes her place among the country's top 18 players.

Hollie Harrington, Moreton Hall sports coach and former World Cup England lacrosse player, commented: "It's an amazing achievement for Milly and testament to all her hard work and dedication to the sport. We are all really proud of her."

As part of the England under-19 team, Milly will play in the annual Home International tournament where the squad will take on the senior regional teams.

There is also hope of international success on the horizon, as she may be selected to play for England in the World Cup in Canada in two years' time, competing against top lacrosse nations such as USA, Canada and Australia.

Milly, unable to contain her excitement, commented: "My end goal is the World Cup, I started playing in year 7 and I have dreamed ever since that I would one day play for England. Now it's actually happening, it's incredible."

Eagles a washout as weather wins

LOOKING for their first league win of the season, Oswestry's rugby players were frustrated by the weather as their home clash with Broughton Park postponed due to a waterlogged pitch.

The Eagles have suffered 18 defeats in their 19 outings this term in the South Lancs and Cheshire one.

They travel to sixth placed Glossop on Saturday.

Edwards in title seventh heaven

AERON Edwards was in seventh heaven after The New Saints reeled off another title to further underline their dominance of domestic Welsh football.

The midfielder has now picked up seven league crowns with TNS, six in a row, and feels the latest success is their best yet.

"It's been an amazing season, but now our focus shifts to going on and trying to win the treble-treble," he said.

"We've exceeded expectations, probably because I don't think anybody expected us to win every game up until last month.

"But the lads have been so professional and played the best football I've seen in my time

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

here."

Striker Greg Draper added: "To win the title this early is a superb achievement, and this is the best group of lads I've been involved with.

"How we build on this now, I don't know. It's going to be very hard to top the form we've shown this season.

"In the last few years we've not reached the third qualifying round in the Champions League, but we're all desperate to do that and we'll be working as hard as ever to try and make that happen."

Ryan Brobbel has savoured a trophy laden year since joining the Saints, admitting the success has been beyond his dreams.

"It's just been fantastic in just over a year I've been here," said the midfielder. "I've been on a high non-stop since joining the club. It's just great, it really is.

"To secure the title so early in the season is phenomenal, the lads have been brilliant.

"I don't think anybody expected us to go on the run that we did, we've blown everyone out of the water.

"We now want to do the business in Europe, that's got to be the aim for us, and to retain the Welsh Cup."

CHAMPS WANT TROPHY TREBLE

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

MANAGER Craig Harrison has vowed there will be no let-up after The New Saints wrapped up a sixth successive Dafabet Welsh Premier title with seven games to spare.

Their 4-0 victory over Bangor City at Park Hall sealed another league crown in record time, with the Saints holding a massive 20 point lead at the top.

Second placed Bala Town visit Park Hall on Sunday (4.15pm), and Harrison insists there's still plenty to play for as his side look ahead to another summer in the UEFA Champions League.

"The title may be done and dusted, but we won't be easing off as we want to win the remaining seven games and win the league by as many points as we can," he said.

"We will continue to set ourselves targets. We never get sick of winning. That is my mindset, while the players are of a similar mind. We have young players who are hungry, and we definitely won't be taking it easy now the title is won.

"Next up is Bala which will be a tough game. They will be very direct and competitive, but we are looking forward to the challenge."

Harrison said places for the summer's Champions League campaign would be the motivation for his players in the remainder of the season.

"They want to be putting themselves in the team and the squad for Europe," he added. "It doesn't stop. It's a continuous cycle and wanting to play in European football."

Winger Jamie Mullan led the way with a second half brace, while Adrian Cieslewicz and defender Steve Saunders also found the net as the Saints underlined their credentials with their 4-0 victory over Bangor.

The defending champions have won the title 11 times in their history, and this is certainly their most dominant with a staggering goal difference of 68 with 83 goals scored and 15 conceded in



Champagne moment – TNS celebrate clinching the Welsh Premier League. Pic: Brian Jones.

their 25 games to date.

Harrison was delighted with the latest success, particularly after losing a couple of the side's experienced players during the summer.

"After winning the first title, this was the most satisfying as a lot of people said we'd struggle at the start of the season," he said.

"But the lads have been brilliant. We had one or two blips, but whenever we've had a big game, they've never let me or the club down and always put in a performance.

"We played Bangor the week before in the Welsh Cup. We were not at our best, but got through, but today we were ready for the chal-

lenge and were fantastic against a good, quality side."

Having retained the MG Nathaniel Cup and now the league crown, the Saints now have the Welsh Cup firmly in their sights. In the semi-final, they meet Gap Connah's Quay at Bangor on April 1, knowing they are now just two games away from defending another trophy.

As well as lifting the title on Saturday, the Saints were also presented with a certificate from Anna Oxford, of the Guinness World Records, to mark their world record run of 27 successive wins earlier in the season. Their feat broke a 44-year old record previously held by Dutch giants Ajax.

Guils boss is focusing on positives

GUILSFIELD boss Dan Barton hopes his side's impressive display against big guns Caernarfon Town can augur well for the remainder of their Cymru All-ance campaign.

Although they failed to score in a stalemate, there were plenty of positives for the Guils who had their chances, only to be twice denied by the woodwork while also missing a late penalty.

The villagers will now hope to maintain that level of performance away to Holywell Town on Saturday as they look to finish their remaining eight league games in style.

Playing a four pronged attack of Louis Irvine, Jake Cook, Adam Jenkins and Sam Litchfield made the side look more incisive going forward.

Irvine, however, is now on the sidelines for a few weeks after picking up a hamstring injury, but Barton was delighted with the way his attack shaped up.

"It was a bit of a gamble playing four up front, but we wanted to be more offensive and throw off the shackles," he said.

"It worked well, but it's just a shame that Louis will now be out with a hamstring injury. I'm not overly concerned at the league table, what's important is building a platform."

While Irvine is sidelined with a hamstring strain, defender Robbie James is also out with an injured shin which required x-rays.

Games are starting to mount up for LLANFAIR UNITED who suffered a second postponement in a week when their crunch clash at basement rivals Conwy Borough was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch.

The latest call-off came just three days after the midweek trip to Holywell also fell victim to the weather. With 10 games still to play, Llanfair will be desperate to get back on the pitch on Saturday when they face Caernarfon Town.

Town make sure they do homework

FC Oswestry Town will be hoping extra homework will start to bring its rewards in the Hallmark North West Counties League division one.

Town remain 11th in the table after being edged out 1-0 at Charnock Richard, but their performance showed a marked improvement after shipping in five goals at home to the Chorley club earlier in the season.

A goal from Carl Grimshaw four minutes into the second half was enough to settle the issue, but the Oswestry side had their chances and were unfortunate to return home empty handed.

"We're now doing more homework on teams, we're having them watched and making reports, and it's making a difference," said Town manager Mike Barton.

"The league's new to us this season, so we want to find out as much about it as we can. We're becoming a lot more prepared."

It is hoped fit-again striker Dan Tinsley will return for Saturday's home clash with Carlisle City at Park Hall (3pm) after being on the sidelines through injury for over three months.

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